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JOHN DE B. LANCASTER, Acting Local Manager.

Hongkong, 27th December 1916.

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SCHIFF.

A DEADLY ENEMY OF THE ALLIES.

HOW HE WORKS WITH SPEYER AND
NATHAN.

[BY D. THOMAS CURTIS.]

I ask my readers to study to-day's
article carefully. It has to do with a
vital question. It may be boring, but
it is necessary.American despatches published in the
British Press during the past two or
three days have informed this country
of the launching in the United States of the
most aggressive and comprehensive move
yet made on behalf of peace—a German
peace—i.e., a German victory.The spear-head of the movement is the
well-known German banker in New York,
Mr. Jacob H. Schiff, native of Frankfurt-
on-the-Main, the cradle of Europe's great
financial dynasties.Mr. Schiff has lived in my country
since 1868. He has been an American
citizen since 1870.He is the head of the banking house
of Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb & Co. of New
York, which, with the exception of
Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., is the most
powerful private banking concern in
North America. Mr. Schiff, as the
wealthiest Jew in the United States, also
looks upon himself as the pope of the
Jewish community of the nation—a
self-conferred distinction which, as I
shall show later, in the course of this
article, is by no means concurred in by
all American Hebrews, some of them my
friends.I believe that no good purpose can be
served by creating the impression in
England that Mr. Schiff's peace crusade
is predestined to be abortive.Throughout the early months of the
war, and until recently, in fact, there
was a temptation in England grievously
to underestimate the power and import
of German-Americanism.I should like to quote a paragraph from
the *London Times* of the 10th of June, 1916,
in which it is said that the *Schiff scheme*
of court as unworthy of serious con-
sideration.In my judgment, from my knowledge
both of conditions in my own country and
of Germany's gnawing need of food, a
great deal of attention should be bestowed
upon the manoeuvres of the "American
Neutral Conference Committee" and its
plans (no doubt to be financed out of
Mr. Schiff's plethoric purse) to stam-
pede the war through the American's good
office—ending always he is remem-
bered, because Germany wants it ended
now while she holds vast regions of
Allied land.Mr. Schiff throughout the war has
insisted that he is neither pro-German
nor pro-Ally. He claims simply to be
"pro-American." He admits that he is
anti-Russian. Others who claim to be
"pro-American" are the editor of the
Fatherland; Mr. Jeremiah O'Leary, of
the League of Truth; Mr. Ridder, of the
New-York Staats-Zeitung; Dr. Haecker,
President of the National German-
American Alliance; ex-Congressman
Henry Volmer, of Iowa, introducer of
the Bill to place an embargo on export
of munitions to the Allies; ex-Congress-
man Richard Bartholdt, of Missouri,
President of the American Independence
League; and ex-Berlin Exchange-Pro-
fessors Burgess and Sloane, of Columbia
University. These gentlemen, like Mr.
Schiff, are all "neutrals." They are so
incredibly unbiased that they do not
care a straw who loses the great war so
long as Germany wins.None of these distinguished American
"neutrals," however, measures up in
stature, power, and influence to Mr.
Schiff. Through his great banking house,
which is intimately identified with the
National City Bank, the Standard Oil
Company, and the other ruling financial
classes, his finger is necessarily in many
pies. Through his self-assumed hegemony
over the Jews of the country, who, as in
England, are powerful and respected
factors in every avenue of industrial,
financial, political, and social life, Mr.
Schiff is more influential than if he were
merely a Wall-street magnate. He is,
moreover, like so many of his race in all
countries, a philanthropist, a fact which
again adds to his network of affiliations.
No great public welfare project any-
where in the United States ever appeals
in vain for his aid and interest. In New
York he is a generous patron of the fine
arts. Politicians and political parties
are always delighted to receive his sup-
port and campaign contributions. His
name is constantly identified with the
cause of clean municipal government and
political reform. He is what my coun-
trymen consider, in the best sense of an
official term, a leading citizen.I do Mr. Schiff the credit of believing
him to be sincere in the desire to employ
his great means and influence on behalf
of ending the carnage. But he is an
extremely shrewd and sagacious man, as
well as an ultra-philanthropic character,
and I do him no injustice when I say
that I think no one in the world realises
more keenly than the head of Messrs.
Kuhn, Loeb & Co. that Germany, if she
is not to be humbled and broken, requires
peace at the earliest possible moment.
While she is still "victorious"—i.e., in
possession of the "pawns" with which
she thinks she can enforce a peace
favourable to herself and her aspirations.
Mr. Schiff's position with regard to
international affairs is like that of tens
of thousands of German who have
obtained American citizenship. As
between the country of their adoption
and Germany, in the case of a conflict,
they would be for America. But as
between the country of their birth and
some other country or countries—as at
present, for instance, they are for Ger-
many. Thus I cannot bring myself to
believe that Mr. Schiff's peace activities
at this time can be with a view to con-
serving the interests of England and her
Allies. If they are not, then they must
be activities conceived and put forth on
behalf of the enemy of England and her
Allies. Mr. Schiff is a logical man, as
every successful banker must be.Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb & Co. have many
international ties, like the Speyers of
Frankfurt, London, and New York. The
identity and connections of the various
members of the firm are of quite peculiar
interest in view of Mr. Schiff's peace
activities. His principal partners (inaddition to his son, Mr. Mortimer L.
Schiff, and Mr. Otto H. Kahn) are the
brothers Paul and Felix Warburg; Mr.
Paul Warburg and Mr. Jacob H. Schiff
married sisters, and are, therefore,
brothers-in-law. Mr. Felix Warburg
married Mr. Schiff's daughter. The New
York Warburgs are brothers of Herr Max
Warburg, head of the powerful Hamburg
banking house of Max M. Warburg &
Co., which is one of the chief financiers
of the Hamburg-American Line and the
North German Lloyd.Mr. Loeb for the past
three years ago in
order to accept a high Government
appointment to the Federal Reserve
Board, the Government Department
which has control of the American
currency and monetary systems.The present Loeb in Messrs. Kuhn,
Loeb & Co. is Mr. James Loeb, son of
one of the founders of the firm (Mr.
Solomon Loeb, a Cincinnati clothing
manufacturer). Mr. Loeb for the past
ten or fifteen years has made his home in
Munich and been, so to speak, "the
resident German partner."In 1915, when the Democratic Party's
project to establish a huge American
mercantile marine was before the coun-
try, there were circumstantial reports
that Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb & Co. were in-
terested in the Bill on behalf of German
shipping interests. They denied this
categorically, but in the halls of Con-
gress and in the newspapers of the coun-
try the story was constantly cropping
up. People, rightly or wrongly, attributed
significance to the fact that the Secre-
tary of the Treasury, Mr. William G.
McAdoo, who stood sponsor for the Ship-
ping Bill, had for many years been in-
timately identified with Mr. Schiff's firm,
which financed some of Mr. McAdoo's
railway and tunnel enterprises. The
story ran that if the McAdoo Shipping
Bill became law the German lines were
to sell their fleets interned in United
States ports to the Government. Messrs.
Kuhn, Loeb & Co. acting as brokers in
the vast transaction. All these, I repeat,
were stories and rumours current at the
time. The Shipping Bill was defeated
and the stories died out. They may
never have been anything but stories, but
thousands of Americans were inclined to
think there may have been fire beneath
the smoke.I should mention, before leaving the
subject of Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb & Co., that
at least two of Mr. Schiff's partners—his
son, Mr. Mortimer L. Schiff, and Mr.
Otto H. Kahn (the latter a British sub-
ject)—are regarded as outspokenly pro-
Ally.I have been reliably informed that they
practically required Mr. Jacob H. Schiff
and the other partners to agree, early
in the war, to enter into no transaction,
such as loans, which could accrue to the
benefit of Germany or her allies during
the war.I believe their transactions in that
direction have been pretty much confined
to ordinary and not very important local
disbursements on behalf of the German
shipping lines, the connection with the
upkeep of their interned ships and crews.
Mr. Kahn, as a good many people in
London know, is the owner of the beau-
tiful St. Dunstan's estate in Regent's Park
and has placed it gratis and complete at
the disposal of Sir C. Arthur Pearson as
a hostel for England's blinded soldiers
and sailors. I do not think there is any
question of Mr. Kahn's pro-Allyism.One of Mr. Schiff's banking partners is
Mr. Paul Warburg, as I have said.
When the United States Congress estab-
lished the "Federal Reserve Board," a
body which has to do with regulating the
currency system of the country, Presi-
dent Wilson appointed Mr. Warburg to a
membership of the board, which enjoys
very wide powers in American banking
and financial affairs. Mr. Warburg is
an extremely able financier. On profes-
sional grounds no one has ever questioned
the wisdom of his appointment. But
more than one critic has gone so far as
to suggest that his presence on the Federal
Reserve Board confers on Messrs. Kuhn,
Loeb & Co. at Washington, an in-
fluence on Government policy and na-
tional finance, such as is enjoyed by no
other banking institution in the country.
I know of no instance of any kind, how-
ever, justifying anybody in saying that
Mr. Warburg has ever in any direction
whatever exercised his authority on behalf
of special interests. The most and the
worst people have ever said is "more
direct wire" to the White House than
any other banking group, for the per-
sonal reasons to which I have alluded.
How well founded this allegation is I
have no means of knowing.I have never heard it suggested that
there was any connection between Mr.
Schiff and President Wilson. I do not
know whom Mr. Schiff "supported" in
the recent close American Presidential
campaign. As the official German-Ameri-
can influence was wielded against the
President it is not improbable that Mr.
Schiff opposed him too. But it is signi-
ficant that one of Mr. Schiff's confidants
on the "American Neutral Conference
Committee" has been looked upon as
one of the President's most trusted coun-
sellors—Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard,
editor of the *New York Evening Post*.
Their relations a year or so ago were so
intimate that reports were current that
Mr. Villard had succeeded Colonel Ed-
ward M. House as President Wilson's
"man-behind-the-throne."Another associate of Mr. Schiff on the
"American Neutral Conference Com-
mittee" is Mr. James Speyer, a brother of
Sir Edgar Speyer, the real head of the
Speyer banking concern. Mr. James
Speyer, who is a man of great ability,
is an intimate friend of Count Bernstorff
and Professor Hugo Münsterberg, the
Harvard psychologist. Count Bernstorff's
son, Count Günther von Bernstorff,
was a clerk in the New York Speyer bank
when war broke out. He has since been
wounded in action by the British. No-
body in America is in any doubt as to
where Mr. James Speyer's war sympa-
thies are. There will be very few of my
countrymen prepared to believe that Mr.
Speyer's activity on behalf of peace is
disinterested or "neutral." He has also
loudly asseverated his "pro-American-
ism" during the war. The presence of
Mr. B. W. Huebsch, a publisher, on Mr.
Schiff's committee is also hardly de-
signed to inculcate belief in the committee's
neutrality or "objectivity." Mr.
Huebsch's advertisements in the *Father-*land, the subsidised organ of Germany
in New York, reveal that he specialises
in such "neutral" volumes as the anti-
British "How Diplomats Make War,"
a ferocious and violent indictment of
Viscount Grey of Fallodon and other
Allied statesmen.Having now described in detail Mr.
Schiff's affiliations and associations in
the United States, I would like to tell
something about his relations in and with
Germany.As I have said, one of his partners lives
(or lived) in Munich, and his firm has
"interlocking" arrangements with the
Warburgs of Hamburg. Mr. Schiff him-
self visited Germany at intervals before
the war and has been received by the
Kaiser at Potsdam. His chief interest
in Germany, apart from banking part-
nerships, was in connection with the
work of the *Hilfsverein Deutscher Juden*
(Central Relief Association of German
Jews). This is a very excellent and well-
organised charitable association, whose
philanthropic work was not confined to
Germany but extended throughout every
European country where there were Jews
in need of aid. The association assisted
Jews in Russia, in Roumania, in Pale-
stine, and elsewhere. Its managing execu-
tive is a member of the Prussian Diet, a
well-known liberal Berlin politician and
writer named Dr. Paul Nathan. Dr.
Nathan belongs to the *Herliner Tageblatt*
pacifist group and writes in that organ.
Mr. Schiff and Dr. Nathan have been
in intimate relationship for many years
in connection with Jewish affairs.Dr. Nathan had something like carte
blanche from the New York Jewish phi-
lanthropist at one time, according to
what I learned in Berlin, to spend prac-
tically any sum within reason which he
thought necessary to ameliorate Jewish
conditions here, there, or anywhere. It
was largely on Dr. Nathan's recom-
mendation that Mr. Schiff endowed a
great Jewish technical college at Jerusa-
lem, where, as is well known, German
religious and sociological influence
always with an eye to ultimate political
advantage—has been rife ever since the
Kaiser and Kaiserin's famous visit to the
Holy Land in the early 'nineties. I
could not ascertain in Berlin whether Dr.
Nathan and Mr. Schiff have remained in
correspondence or relations of any kind
during the war. But knowing Mr.
Schiff's munificence in all matters con-
nected with Jewry I should think it un-
likely that he had entirely severed his
connection with his co-worker, the Prus-
sian publicist and politician. Jews have
suffered cruelly during the war in many
countries, and Mr. Schiff's purse, as I
have intimated, is never appealed to un-
successfully where his co-religionists'
fate is at stake. Dr. Nathan was ac-
customed in pre-war days to make many
trips to Russia on Jewish affairs, and his
recommendations as to disbursement of
relief funds were usually acted upon,
without further inquiry, by Mr. Schiff.Dr. Paul Nathan's coadjutor in the
management of the German Jewish Relief
Association is Berlin's leading merchant
prince, Herr James Simon. Herr Simon
is famed in Germany as the one Jew
apart from Herr Ballin whom the Kaiser
annually honours with his company as a
private guest. Herr Simon is presi-
dent of the German Orient Society, and
the ostensible excuse for the Kaiser's
yearly sojourn at the merchant's palatial
home in the Tiergartenstrasse is to
inspect Herr Simon's wonderful collec-
tion of Oriental antiquities. Herr
Simon, of course, has enjoyed the same
intimate connection with his brother
Jewish philanthropist Herr Simon, the
Kaiser's intimate friend, as he had with
Dr. Nathan.Early in this article I said that Mr.
Schiff's self-assumed position as leader
of American Jewry is not uncondition-
ally acknowledged by all his brethren.
New York's most eloquent and brilliant
Rabbi, the Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, is
on record as saying that Mr. Schiff, on
questions of the war, in no respect is
qualified to speak for American Jews as
a whole.Dr. Wise is pro-Ally, and there are
thousands of American Jews like him.
One is Mr. Adolph S. Ochs, owner of the
New York Times, which many people
consider the most effective champion of
the Allied cause has had or has in the
United States. Another great American
Jew who is not pro-German is Mr. Oscar
Strauss, former Ambassador to Turkey.
I see none of these names associated with
Mr. Schiff's "American Neutral Con-
ference Committee." The position of
many American Jews of prominence
(most of them are of German or Austrian
extraction) is that their forefathers in
the early decades of the Republic's exis-
tence—particularly in the 'forties, 'fifties,
and 'sixties—left Germany as a protest
against Prussian and South German
oppression and persecution of their race.
They reared children who are no more
"German" than the Alsatians are Ger-
man at heart or than the Czechs are
"Austrian."It is a grave mistake to catalogue Ameri-
can Jews, or even German-American
Jews, as people in England, I find, are
prone to do, as pro-German. American
Jews are to a large extent anti-Russian,
but they are not anti-British or anti-
French. They know the obnoxious posi-
tion which Jews for centuries have been
forced to occupy in Germany and Aus-
tria, and I think the vast majority of
those who are in the pro-German camp
are anti-Russian rather than pro-Ger-
man. This probably does not apply to
Mr. Schiff, who is German-born and who
talks English, even after fifty-one years'
residence in the United States, with a
very pronounced German accent.I have merely hinted at a few circum-
stances which suggest the wisdom of not
ignoring Mr. Schiff's peace movement.
His personal predilections are legiti-
mately pro-German. He has built up for
himself a position of immense power and
prestige in the United States, always as an
exponent of *Deutschum*. He is a resource-
ful banker. He has a fondness for med-
dling in public affairs though he has
never held any public office of conse-
quence. It has long been his ambition
to bask in the limelight in the same way
as Mr. Carnegie has done.To-day the opportunity is presented to
him—or rather he has presented it to
himself—to appear in the guise of a
world-philanthropist. He divides a
chance not only to bestow blessings upon
(Continued at foot of next column.)

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

MUSKETRY COURSE, 1917, PART I.

- (1) Lists of men who passed Part II, last year are posted on the notice-board at Headquarters Club. Company, Platoon, and Section Commanders are required to make themselves familiar with same. These men will not be required to fire the preliminary course this year.
- (2) All men who did not pass Part II, last year are provisionally warned to attend and fire this year's Part I, as follows:—

Blake Pier, 8.45 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 14th.—No. 1 Platoon and Mounted Police.
Sunday, Jan. 14th.—No. 2 Company.
Sunday, Jan. 23rd.—No. 3 Company.
Sunday, Blake Pier, 1.15 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 14th.—No. 2 Platoon and Maxim Gunners.
Sunday, Jan. 28th.—No. 4 Company.
Leave from these practices will be permitted only on strict compliance with S.O. 88.

POLICE SCHOOL, 5.30 P.M.

Wednesday, Jan. 10th.—Class II. Examination (Inspector Gordon).
Thursday, Jan. 11th.—Staff Class (Chief Inspector Kerr). Also Class III. (Inspector Gerrard).
Friday, Jan. 12th.—Class IV. Examination (Inspector P. O'Sullivan).
Monday, Jan. 15th.—Class III. Examination (Inspector Gerrard).
RED CROSS SOCIETY OF PORTUGAL.

No. 2 Company and the Band, on falling in at Queen's Statue at 5.15 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9th, will proceed at once to the Victoria Theatre and attend the performance being held in aid of the Red Cross Society of Portugal. Seats have been reserved. In the event of the parade being cancelled by bad weather, members of this command will proceed individually, and in uniform, to the Theatre.

PARADES, CENTRAL, 5.30 P.M.
Monday, Jan. 8th.—All Recruits.
Tuesday, Jan. 9th.—Maxim Gunners.
Wednesday, Jan. 10th.—Recruits.

CRUISE PATROLS.
A number of new machines having been presented to the Police Reserve, a Cyclist Patrol Section is to be formed for duty on the Kowloon peninsula. Members may submit their names for selection to this office.

POLICE RESERVE "GAZETTE."
Section Commanders who have not sent in their lists stating the number of copies required, as per personal letter from the undersigned, should do so without delay, and, in any event, not later than January 12th.
(Sgd.) F. C. JENKIN, D.S.P. (R.).

January 8th, 1917.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

HONGKONG AND CHINA DISTRICT.

VACCINATION DUTY.
During the week ending January 13th public vaccination duty will be carried out as below:—
Y.M.C.A. Division (at Y.M.C.A. Head-quarters):

Monday, 7.30-9.30 p.m., Lieut.-Col. Wei Kan; Privates Kwai Kwai Fung, Fung Tung Chan, Sin Chor and Poon Sai Si.
Tuesday, 7.30-9.30 p.m., Sergeant So Siu On; Privates Hung Wan Sang, Poon Yi Wai and Leung Wing Ching.
Wednesday, 7.30-9.30 p.m., Sergeant Ho Leison; Privates Chan Wang, Poon Yun Sang and Ng Ping Nam.
Thursday, 7.30-9.30 p.m., Privates Lo Kwok Pi, Cheng Yiu and Au Hon Kwong.
Friday, 7.30-9.30 p.m., Lieut.-Col. Seto Chung; Privates Ho Hoi Leung, Mak Siu Ting and Mak Pui Chi.
Saturday, 7.30-9.30 p.m., Sergeant So Siu On; Privates Ho Tso Siu, Tsang Kon Sang and Chiu Fu Sang.

Victoria Division (at No. 16, Ewo St., ground floor).
Daily, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Private Col. Mackenzie, Lo Cheung Ip.
(Sd.) E. HALPES.
(Officer in Charge of District).

January, 8th, 1917.

SCENE IN THE DUMA.

M. Rodzianko resigned the Presidency of the Duma, considering himself insulted not only as President of the Duma but personally.

The insult complained of occurred in the course of the Duma proceedings. M. Rodzianko interrupted M. Markoff, one of the leaders of the Extreme Right, who retorted by calling him a "babbling blackguard." M. Markoff alleged that in its previous sitting the Duma had insulted high personages, and therefore he was deliberately insulting the Duma in the person of the President. M. Rodzianko thereupon left the presidential chair.

On the proposal of Count Bobrinsky, the Vice-President, M. Markoff was excluded from the Duma for the next 15 sittings. M. Zamslovsky and other Extreme Right leaders thereupon left the Chamber.

On the resumption of the sitting in the absence of the Extreme Right spokesmen all parties expressed their indignation at the incident and their sympathy and esteem for M. Rodzianko.

the sorely distressed land of his birth but, incidentally, to reap great glory for the land of his adoption, while at the same time bringing the priceless boon of peace to all the warring peoples. It is a seductive possibility for a man of Mr. Jacob H. Schiff's attainments, wealth, and temperament, and his prosecution of it, his chase after what may now seem an iridescent chimera, deserves, in my judgment, the most unremitting attention which Allied diplomacy is capable of devoting to it.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

The Government has shown itself singularly indifferent to the lot of the householder since the war began. A Committee was early formed to fix the maximum prices of foodstuffs, and this maximum very soon became the recognised minimum. Discouraged, apparently, by the result of their efforts, they appear to have sunk into oblivion for, though I pointed out some months ago on good authority that meat could be purchased wholesale at lower rates than those prevailing before the war, no amended tariff has been issued for the guidance of the public. The view is taken, presumably, that we are all so well off in Hongkong that we need no protection from profiteers.

Yet one notices that the Government has been thoughtful enough to provide its own employees, who are not the most impecunious section of the community, with coal at half the price which other people have to pay. Cannot a scheme be devised for extending this concession to the public, who are mulcted in £3 15s. a ton for coal of very inferior quality? It was whispered recently that the Government intended to place coal at a reasonable price within the reach of those of slender means. If there is any truth in this it is time they got busy unless they intend to wait until mid-summer for the cold weather. The family man earning \$500 a month must find his position very embarrassing in these days, for his choice lies between hunger, cold, or debt. Those in receipt of sterling salaries must also be in an unenviable plight. We are told that the value of the sovereign has fallen in England since the war to 12s. 6d. The purchasing power of the sovereign in Hongkong must be even less. Everybody expects to pay more now than formerly, but that is no reason why we should be exploited.

Is it strictly legal for members of the Police Reserve to serve on juries? A correspondent has written pointing out that the recently-issued Jury List forms have been sent to many Police Reservists, and he facetiously asks if this is exactly *comme il faut* in view of the fact that ordinary policemen, in their leisure moments, are not allowed to decide the guilt or innocence of prisoners who are sent for trial. He does not impute any bias or unfairness to those members of the Police Reserve who have been empanelled on juries in the past, but merely asks if their service is really in accordance with the true spirit of justice. It might easily happen, he says, that the whole seven jurors were policemen (Reservists), and in such a case the defending counsel might have a lot to say on the subject. It is within the realms of possibility, also, that a prisoner might be defended by an officer of the Police Reserve, instructed by another officer of the Police Reserve, and that the jury might all be subordinate members of the same force! What would counsel for the Crown have to say to that?

The Police Reserve were responsible for another fine boxing programme at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening, and there was a crowded house, despite the rumour which had been circulated by some mischievous person that Stapleton would not be able to meet Scott in the big fight of the evening. It was a short-lived encounter, Scott polishing off the challenger of his championship honours in two minutes. One would like to see Scott fully extended with all his skill brought into play, but local sportsmen will be denied this, for Scott is shortly leaving for a part of the world where he will be engaged in the grimmest of all contests. By his departure the Colony will lose one of its most popular boxers, and a good, clean all-round sportsman.

Some of the spectators saw an element of humour in the exhibition at a Police Reserve Assault-at-Arms of the way in which to wriggle out of handcuffs. Each feat was announced in all seriousness, but there were some who could not help smiling at the incongruity of a police official proclaiming that Peppin would give a demonstration of how to escape from handcuffs, stocks, and even Siberian chains. I doubt, however, whether those who looked on could copy

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SPORT.

RIFLE SHOOTING.
RESERVES TOO GOOD FOR
VOLUNTEERS.

The Hongkong Volunteer Corps and the Volunteer Reserves had a friendly shooting match on the King's Park Range on Sunday, as a result of which the "Veterans" won by a margin of 43 points. The conditions were ten a side, seven shots, with a compulsory sighter at each range, and open sights, with service rifles as issued. It was a good day for shooting, and though one of the Reserves' crack marksmen found the effects of vaccination somewhat troublesome, his team won easily and secured silver spoons at the expense of the losers. The scores were as follow:—

	200	500	500	Total
Pte. McLennan	30	31	33	94
Pte. Jenkins	29	31	29	89
Lt. Thornhill	33	27	28	88
Pte. Brown	32	25	30	87
L/C Goodman	30	23	26	82
Sgt. Bannerman	27	25	27	80
Sgt. Lench	26	27	24	80
Corpl. Carmichael	26	31	21	78
Corpl. Nicol	22	27	26	75
Corpl. Lyon	27	25	20	72
	255	276	264	
				825

	200	500	500	Total
Pte. B. D. Evans	31	33	29	93
Sgt. Manuk	31	26	31	88
Sgt. Bradbury	28	25	31	84
C. S. M. Duncan	23	28	31	82
Gnr. Green	28	27	27	82
Gnr. Sorby	30	20	31	81
Corpl. Martin	26	21	25	72
Br. Bailton	24	23	22	69
Lt. Danby	29	29	10	68
L/C Heath	23	23	17	63
	273	295	254	
				782

HOCKEY.

VOLUNTEERS v. R.C.A.

The Volunteer "B" team to meet the 87th Coy. R.C.A. at Happy Valley today will be as follows:—Edmonds, Ralston, Hickling; Haskett, Martin, Ralston; Kay, Stalker, Evans, Southerton and Rouse. Bully-off: 4.45 p.m. Colours: White.

the performance even though they have seen it done. At all events, I should not advise them to get taken into custody for the purpose of making the experiment.

A very plucky rescue from drowning, I hear, was effected the other evening by an Indian member of the Police Reserve, who jumped into the water and swam with his man for some fifty yards before assistance could be given him. As a sign of the constable's coolness and due regard for the proprieties I may add that, being in mufti at the time, he slipped his armband on before making the plunge!

Not, it must be confessed, without some justification, Hongkong is often accused of being behind the times. This charge, however, cannot be levelled against the Tramway Company, for during the past week you could travel a considerable distance by their cars and reach the junction of Pedder Street and Des Vaux Road before you started—according to the clock so thoughtfully erected at that point. This can only be beaten by the submarine cable or by the London evening newspapers, which publish a six o'clock edition at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

A correspondent asks whether my note on the subject last week implies that the Government is not associating itself with the new War Savings Association. The answer to the question, as they say in the House of Commons, is in the negative. The Government studiously refrained from taking the initiative, but now that the scheme is to be carried into effect by a group of public-spirited residents you may safely count upon the Government having a finger in the pie.

The latest in Chinese cinema announcements:—

"The road to her heart; 6,000 feet long."
"Within sound of the Buns; war film."
"The Kaiser at Home; tragic."
"Little Willie's Ways; comic."
"On Some (Sonne) front."

For unconscious humour these announcements are hard to beat.

RODERICK RANDOM.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, December 4th.

THE SHIP OF STATE IN STORMY WEATHER.

The Coalition Ship of State has again run into bad weather in the course of its voyage across the stormy ocean of the war. There have been dangerous times before now, but the coolness of the Prime Minister as the man at the helm has always averted disaster. For instance, Ministers were severely criticised after the Gallipoli failure, and again when Serbia was smitten to the ground and trampled under foot. They also had a bad time when the shortage of shells and big guns became known. And there have been other occasions which will, doubtless, receive adequate mention by future historians. The Roumanian *détaché* has, however, helped to create a situation which is far worse than any so far experienced. Never since the beginning has the country as a whole been so searching critical as now of the men in power, or so firmly resolved to end or mend the Coalition as at present constituted.

THE ROUMANIAN DETACHE.

Several things have contributed to bring about the crisis. In a measure it is traceable to the unhappy and altogether deplorable consequences. The effect is felt not only in London, but in Paris, Petrograd and Rome, to say nothing of neutral nations. The Allies are professedly fighting for the rights of the smaller nationalities, the right to live in their own way, to realise their own ideals, by Germany, and uninfused by the base spirit of greed and gross materialism which we recognise now as the concrete expression of "kultur," the word which is hateful beyond any other in the language of men. Yet what do we see? The sworn champions of the small nations are so far unable effectively to protect their little friends. Belgium went down at the outset of the war, and for 28 months that gallant people have drained the cup of bitterness. The Allies cannot be rightly blamed for that, for reasons that are well understood; but Serbia has undergone the same dreadful torment, and now we find the Roumanians put to the torture and forced to suffer the unspeakable agony of invasion by the enemy. No wonder the heart of England is stirred, and that men of all classes are asking how it came to pass that the British Government, in conjunction with the other partners in the Grand Alliance, were unable to prevent this tragedy.

SOMEONE HAS BLUNDERED.

The Roumanians have retired before the enemies of their race because they are short of shells—the explanation at which I hinted a month ago would probably prove to be the correct one. But, that being the case, how comes it that the Allies let Roumania come into the war when she did? That is the question which everybody is asking. There may, of course, be a good and sufficient answer to the question, but it is not apparent and has never been stated. There was ample experience of the quantity of guns and shells which would be required, and if anything was certain in connection with the matter it was that the Germans would put forth super-human efforts in order to crush the little nation which had dared to oppose them. The blow was sure to fall, and yet when it is delivered the fact is made apparent that the hard lesson of Belgium and Serbia had not, apparently, been taken to heart. For the situation which has arisen public opinion here holds that the Allies are to blame, and it is felt that there has been blundering and culpable mismanagement.

THE GOVERNMENT'S LETHARGY.

Apart from the Roumanian question, which I have referred to at some length because it has overshadowed everything else for several weeks, the Government has lost the confidence of the country to a considerable extent for other reasons. Perhaps the simplest way to describe the position is to say that the country is ahead of the Government in grim determination to carry on to a victorious conclusion. Instead of Ministers leading the people, the latter are urging Ministers to wake up and get on with the war. When papers like the *Daily Chronicle* and the *Westminster Gazette* are found among the critics it may be concluded that discontent is pretty widespread. The Cabinet have exhibited a fatal tendency to postpone the settlement of urgent problems, and they show a lack of the energy and driving force necessary to win the war. It is said that a Cabinet of 23 persons is too unwieldy a body to conduct affairs, especially as the essence of success in warfare lies in the ability to take prompt and vigorous action on occasion demands. There have been serious mistakes, some of them avoidable, and it is believed that the war will inevitably last longer than would otherwise be the case had there been less procrastination and delay.

THE FATAL POLICY OF DRIFT.

The instinct of the nation, which is always sound where the interests of the Empire are concerned, suggests that the policy of drift, if allowed to go on much longer, may prove fatal to our cause in the end. While Germany is mobilising every man and woman in the country we are going on in a more or less haphazard way. There is no sacrifice which the nation is not prepared to make to win, but the Government must give a lead. That, however, is what is lacking. It is certain that we can never beat the enemy unless the present methods are changed. A year ago last July a strong Committee appointed by the Government reported on the question of food supplies, but their recommendations were ignored until a few weeks ago when, owing to high prices and growing unrest, they were adopted and a Food Director was decided upon. But here again there is delay, as a fortnight has elapsed since

(Continued at foot of next column.)

THE P. & O. REPORT.

The declaration of a final dividend and a bonus on the Deferred stock, making 15 per cent. for the year, as compared with 15 per cent. for the year ended December 30th, 1915, had prepared stockholders of the P. & O. Company for a fine report (says *The Times*). They are not likely to be disappointed with the report issued. It shows that, including £78,182 brought forward, the credit balance is £269,646, as compared with £492,564 a year ago, when £38,783 was brought forward. The surplus is thus raised by nearly £170,000. After providing for the dividends and bonus £55,329 now remains to be carried forward. It is stated further that "some property not now required by the company has been sold at a profit. Several outstanding unadjusted accounts for which provision had been made in previous years have been closed, leaving credit balances. These factors, combined with the result of the year's operations, admit of an increase of 2 per cent. in the dividend and 1 per cent. in the bonus, and an addition to the reserve fund of £125,000." In the statement of accounts the book value of the fleet, plants, payments on account of ships under construction, property, stores, investments, and cash have been brought together as "a matter of convenience," so that even less information is given than before. The value placed on all these assets is £12,400,000, and remembering the cautious policy followed throughout Sir Thomas Sutherland's long regime, from which there is very unlikely to have been change since the fusion two years ago with the British India, it may be assumed that it is at least in no way an excessive one. Debtors' stock to the amount of £100,000 has been redeemed during the year, but the directors remind the proprietors that the company has power to re-issue this at any time.

The increased profits have been earned in spite of the facts that "the expense of loading and discharging the steamers, owing to the rise in wages, has greatly increased, and the cost of victualling, running, and working the ships, to which reference was made in the last report, has been much higher than it was during the previous year, in addition to which London Dock dues have been augmented to cover the higher rates paid for labour and the Suez Canal Company's tariff has been raised." In a further reference to costs it is stated that "the mail services have been maintained with regularity, but at great additional cost, and the mail matter has increased to such an extent that in many cases there has been little, and in some cases no, room whatever for cargo in the mail steamers."

LOSSES AND NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Regarding war losses and construction, the report remarks that "the company's fleet has been reduced by nine steamers during the year. Of these, four have been appropriated by the Government, and five have been lost, two having been sunk by enemy submarines in the Mediterranean and one by an enemy mine off Dover. The company has suffered severely by the loss of the services of these ships. The two mail steamers which have been under construction for some time have made a certain amount of progress, as well as two large vessels with refrigeration which were ordered in the early part of 1916, but construction has been greatly delayed owing to Admiralty requirements. As soon as the building yards are in a position to construct mercantile tonnage with a prospect of assured delivery, several new ships will be ordered." The excellence of the results is the more satisfactory in view of the statement that half of the company's fleet has been in the service of the Government during the past year at pre-war rates. Including the British India and also the New Zealand Shipping and Federal fleets which were acquired this year, the total shipping owned by the company is given as 1,600,000 tons gross.

The food policy was announced, and recommendations of the Man-Power Board were published ten weeks ago, but nothing has been done to give effect to them. Nobody wants to civil induly, but it is unfortunate that in these matters, as well as in many others which space will not allow me to discuss, there are evidences of nervelessness and chronic indecision. Lord Rosebery once said that we generally "muddled through" our wars, but this war is on too big a scale, our chief enemy is too well organised, and the issues are so vital that muddling through will not serve our purpose at home or abroad.

THE SINKING OF HOSPITAL SHIPS.

The sinking of hospital ships is the latest infamy of the infamous nation which aspires to rule the world and pretends that it is fighting for the "freedom of the seas." The crime has served to deepen the resentment of the country more almost than anything that has gone before. It is on a par with the torture of English prisoners of war in German prison camps, the Zeppelin murders of women and children, and the judicial murders of Nurse Cavell and Captain Fryatt. It shows the kind of foe we are up against, and it has hardened the determination of our people to fight on until we have rid the earth of the devils who are capable of such monstrous deeds.

Germany has evidently resolved upon a settled policy of sending to the bottom every British ship she can with the object of reducing tonnage and starving us into surrender. In this connection it is useful to note that, on the authority of Mr. Bunciman in a recent speech, the loss of British ships through submarines to the end of September was only 21 per cent. of the total mercantile marine. Tonnage is undoubtedly short, but that is owing to the demands of the Government, who have to maintain vast armies in various theatres of war. The German hopes of reducing England to impotence by submarine piracy are doomed to failure, but the piracy will go on, no doubt, regardless of the laws of God and man until the authors of it are beaten by force of arms.

INTIMATIONS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

ESTABLISHED 1850.

TELEPHONE 1741.

MEN'S WINTER WEAR.

SHIRTS, PYJAMAS, SOCKS, GOWNS, GLOVES, Etc.,
IN RELIABLE QUALITIES AT MODERATE PRICES.



HERCULES
RIBBED WOOL
HALF-HOSE



MEN'S FINE WOOL AND "VIYELLA"
SHIRTS FOR DAY AND SPORTS WEAR.

MEN'S WINTER WEIGHT

PYJAMAS AT SPECIAL PRICES.

\$4.00 \$5.00 \$6.50 \$8.50 PER SUIT.

MORLEY'S KNITTED AND HEAVY MERINO

SOCKS IN HEATHERS, KHAKI AND GREYS.

\$1.25 \$1.50 \$1.75 \$2.00 PER PAIR.

MEN'S WHITE AND KHAKI "VIYELLA"

GLOVES ALL SIZES \$1.75 PER PAIR.

WHITE, GREY AND BROWN DOESKIN GLOVES.

JAEGERS' PURE WOOL KNITTED

WAISTCOATS IN ALL SIZES.

WITH AND WITHOUT SLEEVES \$6.50 TO \$10.50 EACH,
LONDON MADE WARM AND USEFUL

DRESSING GOWNS \$17.50 TO \$35.00

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

(18-2)

DRINK
"BULL DOG" LAGER BEER.
SUPERIOR TO ANY GERMAN LAGER BEER EVER BREWED.
BRITISH THROUGHOUT.

Brewed in Great Britain.

Bottled by British Labour.

OBTAINABLE AT:—

PRICES DUTY PAID.

Wing On Co., Ltd.

QUARTS—\$20.00 per case

Sincere Co., Ltd.

of 4 dozen.

Sun Co., Ltd.

or \$5.10 per dozen.

Cheong Tai.

Nam Hing Loong.

PINTS—\$26.50 per case

Ty Sing.

of 8 dozen.

Sang Tai.

or \$3.40 per dozen.

Kwan Tye.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Obtainable in Canton from

SINCERE CO., LTD.

Stocked by

THE HONGKONG HOTEL.



FRESH STOCKS JUST ARRIVED.

(18-2)

Wm. Powell Ltd.

TELEPHONE 346

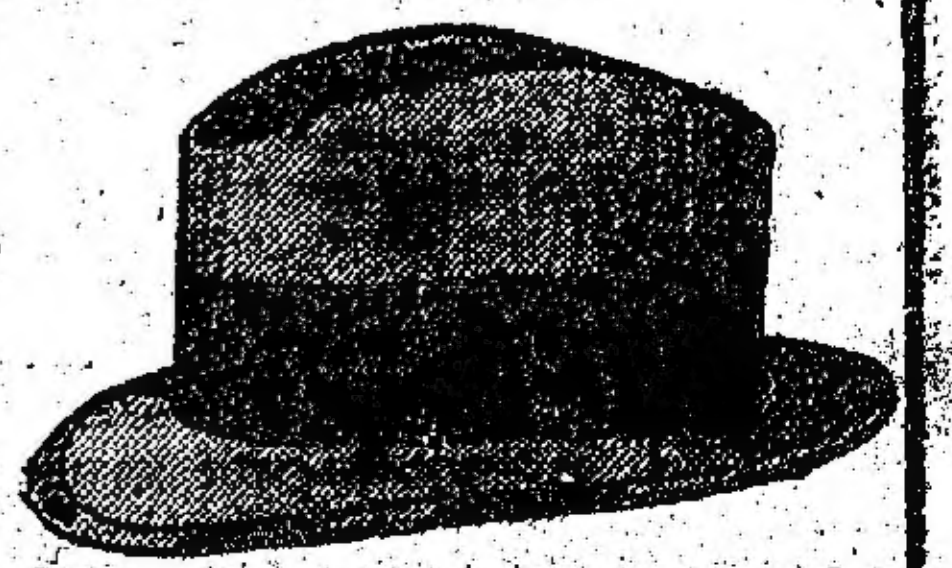
GLYN'S HATS in

SOFT FELT, TWEED
AND VELOUR.

CAPS in

SMART TWEEDS
AND ALPACAS.

WM. POWELL, LTD.,
SOLE AGENTS.



89

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

TO LET.

A T PEAK, SIX-ROOMED FURNISHED HOUSE, Tennis Court, Vegetable Garden, March to October. \$145 per month. Inclusive.
Apply—
Box No. 9,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[168]

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.
LADIES' GOLF.

It has been suggested that a LADIES' COMMITTEE should be formed in connection with the GOLF CLUB. A MEETING OF LADIES will, therefore, be held in the HAPPY VALLEY CLUB HOUSE, TO-MORROW (WEDNESDAY), 10th Jan., at 11.30 A.M. All Lady Players are invited to attend.

By order
GENERAL COMMITTEE.
[164]

HONGKONG AND CHINA GAS CO., LTD.

THE COMPANY begs to notify the Public that the Price of Gas will be REDUCED by TWENTY CENTS per 1,000 cubic feet as from the 1st February next.

By Order of the Directors,
GEORGE CURRY,
Local Secretary.
[159]

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE.

THE COMMITTEE has decided that the following shall be the SETTLEMENT DATES for the year 1917—

MONDAY, 24th January.
FRIDAY, 23rd February.
THURSDAY, 29th March.
FRIDAY, 27th April.
WEDNESDAY, 30th May.
THURSDAY, 28th June.
FRIDAY, 27th July.
WEDNESDAY, 29th August.
THURSDAY, 27th September.
MONDAY, 29th October.
WEDNESDAY, 28th November.
FRIDAY, 21st December.

By Order of the Committee,
EDWARD M. RAYMOND,
Hon. Secretary.

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE.
Hongkong, 6th January, 1917. [160]

HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

As already notified, this COMPANY'S GENERATING A is now carrying in the vicinity of the maximum load and no further installations can be made for the present. Consumers and Wiring Contractors are warned against the danger of making additions to existing installations and are reminded that under the Regulations for securing the safety of the Public contained in the Schedule to the Electricity Supply Ordinance 1911 (as amended) "Any person making any addition to any electrical installation connected to the Company's main shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Fifty Dollars for every such addition."

By Order of the Board,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 5th January, 1917. [155]

UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG.
WANTED.

A MECHANICAL ENGINEER is required by the UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG, to act as workshop instructor and foreman in the University workshops and engine room. Commencing Salary \$230 and quarters. Applications to be made in writing to Professor MITCHELL SMITH, The University, Hongkong, from whom further particulars may be obtained. [159]

HONGKONG TRAMWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.
(Incorporated in the United Kingdom).

LOST.

TRANSFER RECEIPT No. 1277 issued to Messrs. LOAN & BARR for Transfer of 100 Shares in this Company into the name of Mrs. RENE WELLS, having been MISLaid, LOST, or DESTROYED, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that unless the said Receipt is produced at this Office within 30 days from the date hereof, the Certificate for the said Shares will be delivered to the said Mrs. RENE WELLS, and the Transfer Receipt will thereafter be held by the Company as null and void.

W. E. ROBERTS,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 19th December, 1916. [110]

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE CERTIFICATE for One Share, No. 5461 in this Company, standing in the name of Miss JOSE de JESUS, of Macao, has been LOST, and it at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above document be not forthcoming another Certificate for the said Share will be issued by the Company and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.

C. MONTAGUE EDE,
General Manager.
Hongkong, 19th December, 1916. [114]

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE CERTIFICATE for Two Shares, Nos. 5414/5415 in this Company, standing in the name of Miss FERNANDA NOGUEIRA, of Macao, has been LOST, and it at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above document be not forthcoming another Certificate for the said Shares will be issued by the Company and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.

C. MONTAGUE EDE,
General Manager.
Hongkong, 15th December, 1916. [115]

INTIMATION

PER S.S. "SOMALI."

We Have

Just Received

An Assortment of

CADBURY'S

CHOCOLATES

in Fancy Boxes.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

TELEPHONE 16.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOUX ROAD, C.
LONDON OFFICE: 181, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG 9TH JANUARY, 1917.

IMPERIAL STUDIES.

The British Empire, it has frequently been remarked, is not the result of a conscious effort on the part of a Government, but is a chance growth due to the restless energy and enterprise of the people of the British Isles during the past three centuries. For long it was regarded with cold disfavour by Ministers of the Crown, who saw in it only possible sources of embarrassment. Even Lord PALMERSTON, if we remember rightly, declared on one occasion that the Colonies were all very well in their way, only one never knew where the wretched things were. The first Secretary of State for the Colonies who showed a proper appreciation of the value of the Overseas Dominions was the late Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, who, in the words of Mr. BALFOUR, brought "a new inspiration to his office." Since that day a great change for the better has taken place in our conception of Empire, and they credit for this is due, in no small measure, to the educative influence of the Royal Colonial Institute. One of the latest activities of this body, whose membership is drawn from all parts of the world, has been to encourage the study of Imperial problems in University centres. Recognising the importance of the work carried on by the Imperial Studies Committee appointed four years ago by the University of London under the Chairmanship of Lord MUNRO, the Council in 1915 formulated a scheme of academic lectures, with Dr. A. P. NEWSON, the Secretary of the Imperial Studies Committee, as organiser. A panel of lecturers of high repute was formed, and a course of lectures dealing

with Imperial subjects in a scientific spirit were delivered in London, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham, Nottingham, Bristol, Exeter and Glasgow. As might be expected at a moment when the Empire is being closely welded together by the pressure of a common foe, and the necessity for some early rearrangement of inter-Imperial relationships is evident, these lectures were attended by overflowing audiences. It is high time that this work was undertaken. What do nine out of ten of the working men know or care, or what did they know or care before the war, about the Empire? Next to nothing. Until the rubber boom they had never heard of the Federated Malay States, Singapore was some place "where pineapples came from," and Hongkong was a region to which, in moments of irritation, the troublesome were consigned. Even of the self-governing Dominions very hazy ideas were entertained, beyond the fact that they were lands of promise. This ignorance was the inevitable result of the lack of encouragement to devote any attention to the subject. What evidence, moreover, have the older Universities given of placing the study of the Empire anywhere near the front rank in their curriculum? The Chair of Colonial History at Oxford is only about eleven years old, and at Cambridge there is none. Yet to the history of the world the great contribution of England has been her work beyond the seas—a work that concerns nearly a quarter of the human race and has no parallel. If this indifference is shown by the Mother Country towards her children how can it be expected that the Daughter Nations will retain their interest in and respect for their parent? And if the democracy—which means the mass of the voters—of the United Kingdom is not given sound, sober, thoughtful views about the Empire how can it be expected to form sound, sober, thoughtful views on Imperial questions? There is need both for research and propaganda. At present, as a general rule, standard histories of England are not histories of the British Empire; and histories of the Empire do not treat—otherwise than incidentally—of the United Kingdom. The text-books of the future will, it is to be hoped, avoid this mutual exclusiveness; the British Empire will no longer be represented as an appendix to Great Britain, and Great Britain will be treated as the nucleus of the Empire. Though the importance of the historical side of Imperial studies is great and obvious, it must not be forgotten that Imperial studies enter into the whole realm of knowledge. To quote the preface of the Imperial Studies pamphlet, "If we might imagine knowledge as divided into separate classifications or sciences by vertical columns, no fresh column would have to be added for Imperial Studies, but they would appear rather as horizontal groupings stretching across all the columns." Medical science, for example, is an Imperial study, more especially in respect of tropical medicine, and the research into the causes of and remedies for the diseases which are prevalent in the British Colonies and Protectorates, and which vitally affect their life and character. Law, as an Imperial study, takes special cognisance of the constitutional and legal systems, in all their rich varieties, which have been born in or imported into the King's Dominions beyond the seas. Nor could there be a more prolific field than the British Empire for the botanist to explore. Let it not be supposed that Imperial studies are needed only in the United Kingdom. They are needed most there because consciousness of the Empire is weaker at home than overseas, but they are needed, also, in all parts of the King's Dominions. We should like to see them introduced into our local University, and to know that the boys who are attending the various Government schools in this Colony are being taught not merely to remember a catalogue of English Kings but to understand something of Britain's Imperial policy. Had this been done in the past we should find the present generation of Chinese looking with less unconcern upon the issues which are being fought out in Europe to-day. Loyal citizens of an alien race cannot be reared without an effort. This has been realised by some of the younger nations which welcome immigrants from all parts of the world, and there is much in their methods which we might copy with advantage.

Mr. E. Irving, Director of Education, will distribute the prizes to the pupils of St. Joseph's College to-day at 3 p.m.

During the week ending January 6th there was one fatal Chinese case of diphtheria in Hongkong, and a non-fatal imported Chinese case of enteric fever.

A Chinese shopkeeper, of Des Vaux Road, has reported to the police that on the 5th inst. an assistant accountant collected, by means of a forged check, \$10,000 on behalf of the shop. He has not been seen since.

The first of a series of religious lectures, to be given in the Helena May Institute, will take place this afternoon at 5.30, when the Bishop of Victoria will speak on "How we got our Bible." The meeting is open to all women.

There will be a cinematograph performance for members of the Peak Club and their friends to-morrow at 9.15 p.m., the main features of which will be War films. Any surplus profits will be devoted to War Charities. Admission will be \$1 only.

With the object of raising funds for the Portuguese Red Cross Society, a special matinee is to be given at the Victoria Theatre to-day, commencing at 5.15 p.m. An entertaining programme has been arranged, including two Chaplin films.

At the Peak Tram station yesterday morning at 8 o'clock the thermometer registered 33 degrees. A Peak resident credits his thermometer with having registered 33 degrees at about 7 a.m. the same day. The Royal Observatory during that the lowest reading registered during the week-end was 41.5, minimum shade temperature. In January, 1916, the lowest register was 39.3.

Troops stationed at Hongkong and other places in the Far East would greatly appreciate (says a correspondent in the *Ping Pong Gazette*) some of the smoking material which is being sent to so many fronts with such lavishness, also reading matter. The troops in those stations are "doing their bit" in holding the chain of coaling stations, though most anxious for more exciting service. Still, someone must do this part of the work, and surely it is worthy of some little recognition.

Mr. E. V. D. Parr, who has been promoted from Acting Superintendent to the post of Superintendent of the P. and O. Company in Hongkong, joined the P. and O. London staff in 1889. After five years in that office he was sent to the East, and served in the Company's office at Bombay, Calcutta, Yokohama, and Shanghai. He has been in the Hongkong office for the past twelve years, and upon the death of Mr. E. A. Hewitt, became Acting Superintendent. It is interesting to note that when Mr. Parr joined the P. and O. Company the fleet totalled 195,300 tons. To-day the total tonnage is 1,500,000.

THE "KATORI MARU."

AN UNFOUNDED RUMOUR.

A rumour has been prevalent in the Colony during the past few days to the effect that the a.s. *Katori Maru*, of the N.Y.K., had called at Penang, according to schedule, on the journey to England, had failed to call at Colombo, her next port of call, and that nothing had been heard of the vessel since she left Penang. In view of the fact that the passenger list included several Hongkong residents, some amount of anxiety was felt as to the safety of the vessel.

Enquiries made by a *Daily Press* representative at the offices of the N.Y.K. yesterday elicited the information that the rumour is absolutely without foundation. It is the practice of the N.Y.K. only to be informed of a vessel's progress if any mishap occurs, or if she fails to run according to schedule. No information has been received regarding the *Katori Maru* since she left Hongkong on December 9th, and this shows that the vessel has run to schedule up-to-date; calling at Singapore on December 14th; Malacca on December 16th; Penang on December 17th; and Colombo on December 22nd. The *Katori Maru* is due to reach London on February 9th.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A "COALITION" GOVERNMENT.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—A rumour is current that the officials of the Hongkong Government are being supplied with coal at half the current market price. I have been assured, in answer to inquiries, that the report is well-founded. In the present cold snap it must be very "grateful and comforting" to be able to pile up the grate with fuel which, to the common or garden person, is literally of "black diamond" value, conscious that it will cost no more than half what is charged the "other fellows" who are outside the charmed and exclusive official circles. Government officials may be—I daresay, they are—worthy and hardworking servants of the Colony, but they are well remunerated for their services. Let them put on their thinking caps and ponder the question of what circumstances exist which justify this special treatment, and why it should not be extended to those who "pay the piper." A question or two by the Hon. Mr. Pollock at the next meeting of the Legislative Council might bring a little enlightenment on this point to the benighted and shivering non-official members of the community, who have to "keep the home fires burning" to the tune of some \$30 a ton.—Yours to an icicle,

COAL SCUTTLE.

PRISONERS OF WAR FUND.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—May I through the medium of your paper inform any members of the St. John's Cathedral congregation who were not present at the special service of intercession on Sunday morning that the collection for the Prisoners of War Fund came considerably short of the \$1,000 suggested in "Church Notes" as a minimum offering from such a congregation for such a fund and at such a time. The amount collected was \$645. The treasurer of the Church Body, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, of Messrs. Denny and Bowley, will be glad to receive additions to the collection before the end of this week.

I am, Yours etc.,

G. H. VICTORIA.
Bishop's House, St. Paul's College.
Hongkong, January 7th, 1917.

UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG.

HONOURS DEGREES IN ENGINEERING.

At the Degree Examinations held last June in the University of Hongkong, the Board of Examiners of the Faculty of Engineering awarded degrees to twelve engineering undergraduates. They also decided that the opinion of London examiners should be accepted as to whether the work of three of these undergraduates was of the standard necessary for an honours degree in the University of London.

The awards were made by Professors Stephen Dixon, M.Sc., M. Inst. C.E., and T. Mather, F.R.S., M.I.E.E., examiners in Engineering subjects in the London University, and have now come to hand.

The Examiners state that Mr. Foo Ping Sheng "has reached the standard required at the University of London, B.Sc. Examination for First Class Honours" and that Messrs. Tang Ying Lam and Leung Nai Hang have reached the standard of Second Class Honours with "very good marks" and "good marks" respectively.

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.
MILITARY CROSS FOR HONGKONG BOY.

Second-Lieut. Jordan, R.A., nephew of Dr. G. P. Jordan, of Hongkong, has been decorated with the Military Cross. As F.O.O., "somewhere in France," he followed close behind the infantry and established telephonic communication with his battery, though his O.P. was blown in and his wire cut several times. Throughout the day he sent valuable information.

HOW ADMIRAL JELICOE OUTWALKED BISHOP INGRAM.

"There is only one person I know," said the Bishop of London last month, "who walks faster than myself, and that is Sir John Jellicoe." He was recently playing golf with the Admiral, and in the course of the game remarked: "I should like to ask you Commander-in-Chief, one question. Is this a golf match or a sleep-eater?"

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

SINGLET SNATCHER.

For snatching a singlet from an old woman's stall at Yau-mati, a Chinese was sentenced to one month's hard labour and four hours' stocks.

MUNITIONS.

A fine of \$50 was imposed upon a Chinese who was found with a quantity of percussion caps in his possession. The munitions were found in pillow boxes, which were concealed about the man's clothing.

DEAF AND DUMB BANISHEE.

A banishee, who was both deaf and dumb, was charged before Mr. Wood with returning from banishment. It was stated that the man had been banished three times, and Mr. Wood passed sentence of twelve months' hard labour.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

The case was adjourned in which a Chinese is charged with attempting to obtain money by false pretences. The evidence for the prosecution is to the effect that the defendant went into a shop and offered for sale a bangle which he said was gold but which turned out to be brass. Mr. Mattingley is prosecuting and Mr. Gardiner defends.

EUROPEANS IN TROUBLE.

James Williamson, a ship's engineer, was not present to answer a charge of being drunk at West Point on Sunday evening, and his bail of \$5 was exonerated. Francis Henry Bannister, a ship's officer, who was charged with being drunk in Water Street, West Point, on Saturday, was also an absentee, but an Inspector explained that Bannister was so ill that he had to be taken to the Government Civil Hospital. The man was still detained in hospital, and was too ill to attend the Court that day. The case was remanded for a week.

A FASCINATING CHAIN.

A coolie was charged with the theft of a chain from a ship alongside the Kowloon wharf. It was stated by Sergt. Moody that before the actual theft the defendant was seen endeavouring to remove the chain, but was driven away in approved style. An hour later, however, the defendant was found in Canton Road, and he had the chain concealed around his waist. Enquiries made showed that the man must have gone back to the ship and removed the fascinating chain.

Sentence of three months' hard labour and four hours' stocks was imposed.

THEFT AT LANE, CRAWFORD'S.

An outside coolie was charged with the theft of five leather football cases, valued at \$50, the property of Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.

Mr. Scriven, an employe of the firm, said that he was walking through the hardware department on Thursday last when he saw the defendant coming from a room with a parcel under his arm. He was employed casually to carry parcels, but there was something about the man's demeanour which aroused witness' suspicions. He followed the defendant downstairs, and also another coolie, and then handed the defendant over to Mr. Ainslie, the head of the department, and an examination of the parcel revealed the fact that it contained the football cases. When the property was discovered defendant alleged that it had been given him by another coolie.

Mr. Ainslie stated that they were continually having thefts from the shop, and they experienced great difficulty in proving them.

Defendant was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour, and was also ordered to be placed in the stocks for four hours.

SMALL-POX IN HONGKONG.

The number of cases of small-pox reported as occurring in Hongkong during the week ending January 8th shows a satisfactory decrease when compared with the previous week. The Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Woodman) reports that during the last week there were 23 cases (two Portuguese, and the rest Chinese, one being imported), of which number 40 proved fatal. During the week ending December 30th there were 55 cases, of which 60 proved fatal.

THE WAR.

GERMANY FEELING THE PINCH.

CONFIDENCE OF THE ALLIES.

GREECE PREPARING FOR WAR.

MORE "FBRIGHTFULNESS" FORESHADOWED.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

FEELING THE PINCH.

MUCH SCARCITY IN GERMANY.

AMSTERDAM, January 8th.

The German newspapers testify to the growing scarcity in Germany. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* says that Germany is now practically self-dependent for milk and butter, while cheese has disappeared.

The *Cologne Gazette* says that further restrictions on potatoes are necessary, to three pounds weekly. The Municipality of Essen protested against these restrictions, and at a meeting of the Berlin Municipality, the policy of Herr Bartsch was denounced, the critics including Burgomaster Werth, who dwelt on the scarcity of milk and potatoes.

The Council passed a resolution urging the Government to secure a more equitable distribution of food, with less favouring of the country districts.

The Bavarian Ministry has ordered hotel-keepers to cease feeding foreigners. The *New York Times* states that the reason for the German Peace Note is apprehension at starvation as a result of the British blockade.

ALLIES' CONFIDENCE.

"DEFINITE AND COMPLETE VICTORY."

ROME, January 8th.

Signor Boselli, President of the Council, at a luncheon held in honour of the Conference Delegates, in proposing the toast of The Allies, pronounced a definite and complete victory, which would result from their closely concerted action and determination.

M. Briand, the French Premier, in replying, associated himself with Signor Boselli's prophecy.

A crowd outside accorded an ovation to the departing delegates, especially to Mr. Lloyd George, M. Briand and General Cadorna. The latter's motor-car was compelled to go at a walking pace, the streets being packed by a continuously cheering populace.

The *Giornale Italia* emphasises the importance of the phrase "definite and complete victory," which, it says, Signor Boselli and M. Briand repeated in order to show the world the meaning of the conference.

All the delegates expressed satisfaction at the complete success of the conference, whose decisions will be translated into decisive action, which, it is believed, will pave the way to victorious issues. The discussions were characterised by their absolute frankness, unselfishness, harmony and iron determination.

THE ALLIED CONFERENCE.

COMPLETE AGREEMENT.

ROME, January 8th.

The Conference of the Allies has reiterated and recorded complete agreement on the various questions discussed. It has also been decided to carry out still closer co-ordination of efforts.

EARLIER CABLES.

MAJ.-GEN. SIR SAM HUGHES.

EXONERATED OF AMMUNITION SALE CHARGES.

OTTAWA, January 7th.

The Report of the Committee of Investigation into the Militia Department's sale of ammunition to the Admiralty completely exonerates Major-Gen-Sir Sam. Hughes.

BRITISH AGRICULTURE.

REVIVAL PREDICTED.

LONDON, January 7th.

Mr. Prothero, President of the Board of Agriculture, speaking at Bedford, forecasted a great revival of agriculture as a result of the war. He appealed to farmers to produce all they could for man and beast, and said he intended to establish clubs for growing potatoes and for pig-keeping, with the help of the Treasury.

INDIA AFTER THE WAR.

PROBLEMS OF TRADE AND TREATMENT.

LONDON, January 8th.

Discussing the Raj's investigations in regard to post-war trade, the *Times* remarks that some limitations will be required regarding the way in which minerals may be dealt with after extraction, in order to prevent their being used against us in war.

In regard to shipping, it points out that India will be able to bargain for fair treatment, since she may prohibit or restrict the employment of lascars on alien ships.

In regard to tariff problems, it says, in view of the possibility of dumping after the war, it is necessary to consider the effect of a heavy or moderate duty on enemy imports and a preferential tariff, graded according to the country of origin.

SWISS NEUTRALITY.

RENEWED ASSURANCES BY FRANCE.

LONDON, January 7th.

In view of the possibility of Germany meditating a blow at France through Switzerland, it is noteworthy that the French Government, according to reports from Paris, recently renewed its assurances to the Swiss Government that France would strictly respect Swiss neutrality.

"PEACE TALK SIMPLY SILLY."

THE ONLY WAY.

LONDON, January 7th.

The *Times*, in an editorial, says:—After the Kaiser's Army Order peace talk is simply silly. The only way to secure peace is to inflict decisive military defeat on the enemy. It is all-important that we steadily increase our superiority on the Western front and not run risks by dissipating our efforts.

RUNNING AMOK.

SYMPTOMS OF GERMAN RECKLESSNESS.

AMSTERDAM, January 7th.

Another indication that Germany is likely to run amok at any moment is contained in the Dutch pro-German organ, the *Toekomst*, intimating that the Germans regard all British merchantmen as auxiliary cruisers, which will be sunk without regard to life. It warns neutrals that their flags will not protect them.

BOASTFUL PRESS.

"AN EMPTY SHELL."

AMSTERDAM, January 7th.

The German Emperor's Order to the Army and Navy has started a new outburst of boasting in the German Press, which shouts with joy at the capture of Brails, although a German official message admits that the place was an empty shell.

GERMANY'S ECONOMIC CONDITION.

POPULATION STARVING.

LONDON, January 8th.

Reuter learns from an authoritative source that at no period of the war has there been such striking evidence of rapid and progressive economic deterioration in enemy countries as during the past two months.

Expectations of huge hauls of oil and grain from Roumania have not been realised, and owing to the failure of the potato harvest the population in many parts of Germany is starving.

Franco-Belgian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

SUCCESSFUL RAIDS; ATTACKS THWARTED.

LONDON, January 7th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a *communiqué*, says:—We completely repulsed an attack at Beaumont Hamel and successfully raided trenches south of Armentieres, capturing 19 prisoners.

A short and heavy bombardment preceded a morning attempt to enter our trenches south-west of Wytschaete. The enemy was driven off in disorder and sustained considerable losses.

Our fire drove off an enemy attempt north of Ypres under cover of an intense bombardment.

FRENCH FRONT.

MIXED ACTIVITIES.

LONDON, January 7th.

A French *communiqué* states:—There were bombing encounters west of the Meuse.

Our artillery frequently bombarded the northern slopes of Hill 285 and German defences near Mort Homme.

An enemy *coup de main* east of the Meuse failed completely. Attempted enemy attacks in the Vosges was stopped by our fire.

One of our aeroplane squadrons bombarded aerodromes at Haucourt and Matigny, a railway station at Arcigny, enemy cantonnements at Liancourt Wood and depots at Attiche.

ARTILLERY STRUGGLE IN BELGIUM.

LONDON, January 8th.

A French *communiqué* reports a lively artillery struggle in the sector of Nieuport-Bains, Belgium.

GERMAN REPORT.

ENGLISH ATTACK BREAKS DOWN.

LONDON, January 7th.

A German official report states:—An English attack to the south of Arras broke down under our gun-fire. The weather has restricted fighting.

Naval Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

LATEST HUN RUSE.

FALSE SIGNALS OF DISTRESS.

AMSTERDAM, January 6th.

The *Telegraph* states that a Dutch ship returning from the Dutch East Indies received a distress signal in the Bay of Biscay. She proceeded to the spot and found a German submarine not in the least distressed, whose commander was most disappointed at the arrival of a Dutch, instead of an English, steamer.

SUBMARINE PIRACY.

LATEST SINKINGS.

LONDON, January 6th.

The latest sinkings reported are the Norwegian steamer *Helgoy* and the Greek steamer *Tetropina*.

Italian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE CARSO FRONT.

ITALIANS ADVANCE 500 METRES.

LONDON, January 7th.

A wireless Italian official message says:—We have advanced 500 metres on the Carso front.

The Balkans.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GREEK GOVERNMENT.

PREPARING FOR WAR AGAINST ENTENTE.

LONDON, January 6th.

Apparently the Greek Government is preparing for war against the Entente. The pro-German Press, in most violent language, declares that the blockade has caused an intolerable situation.

Reservists are being secretly enrolled and are ordered to be ready to join their regiments at an hour's notice.

AUSTRIAN EMPEROR'S ACTIONS.

WEEDING OUT PRO-GERMAN OFFICIALS.

LONDON, January 6th.

There is much speculation as to the attitude of Emperor Charles of Austria, who has displayed an unexpected determination in weeding out officials of the old regime. The remarkable fact is that most of the dismissals are of notorious pro-Germans.

The latest dismissals include Baron Maccio, the principal departmental chief of the Foreign Office, and Count Forgach, the second chief, to whose machinery the war was largely due.

It is reported that the Emperor is going to Budapest to supervise the reorganisation of the Government and the rooting out of the pro-Germans.

Another significant move is the un-muzzling of the Austrian Socialists, who are now permitted even to demand the evacuation of Allied territories in the west and the south.

GERMAN CLAIMS.

FIGHTING IN THE VALLEYS.

LONDON, January 7th.

A wireless German official report states:—We pushed back the Russo-Romanian forces between Oltaz Valley and Patna Valley and stormed the summit of Odobesti.

The Russians attacked on a 25 kilometre front between Focani and Fundeni, and advanced in the direction of Ohilesti.

English attempts on the Bulgarian advanced posts, north-east of Doiran, failed.

RUSSIAN VERSION.

ROUMANIANS RESTORED POSITIONS.

LONDON, January 7th.

A wireless Russian official report states:—In the Oltaz Valley we retired to the north-west of Focani and to the east of the Romanians' restored positions.

At Knapatuni, in the same area, we threw back a dense attack, and south-west of Focani we took up the offensive and reached the line at Rasputza Lake.

Russian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN REPORT.

1,300 PRISONERS TAKEN.

LONDON, January 7th.

Strong Russian attacks failed at Mitau, where we took 1,300 prisoners.

RUSSIAN REPORT.

CAPTURE OF 500 PRISONERS.

LONDON, January 7th.

A wireless Russian official report states:—In the Riga fighting we took 500 prisoners and surprised and captured trenches.

THE AMERICAN LOAN TO CHINA.

OVER-SUBSCRIBED IN THE WESTERN STATES.

The *China Press* publishes a special cable reporting that a Chinese official wire from Washington reports that the State Department has expressed great surprise at the Quintuple Group's protest against the American industrial loan of \$25,000,000, considering that there is no real basis for opposition. The loan has been three times over-subscribed in the Western States, affording a fine prospect for a second loan. This is important, as this is the first Chinese loan from Western interest.

INCOME TAX AND ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF TAXATION.

REPORT OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The committee appointed by H. E. the Governor of the Straits Settlements to advise whether a better means of raising an appropriate contribution by the Colony towards the prosecution of the war could be devised than by means of an income-tax, passed the following resolution unanimously:—

"That the members of this committee, in view of the ever increasing cost to the Empire, both in its manhood and in its wealth, occasioned by the present war, wish to place on record their unanimous opinion that a contribution towards the expense of carrying on the war should be made by the people of all nationalities who reside in the Colony of the Straits Settlements. Realising the magnitude of the stake at issue, they consider that it is their bounden duty to share as far as possible the sacrifices now being made by their fellow subjects in the United Kingdom."

INCOME TAX.

A majority of eleven members of the committee against nine consider that an income tax for war purposes only, legislated by an annual Ordinance, should be imposed. The collection of the tax should be conducted on the lines indicated in the letter of the Colonial Secretary forwarding the draft bill for the consideration of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council and amplified, in accordance with a suggestion made by the chairman that by means of sub-committees formed in each community, who would report to a central committee, all inquisitorial methods might be avoided.

The committee, after due consideration, are unanimously of the opinion that as an alternative to an income-tax, the methods of taxation shown as approved by them in the list of resolutions submitted with this report might suitably be adopted. They consider that such taxes can readily be collected by means of existing machinery. The committee have borne in mind that in all taxation, fairness of incidence is a most, if not the most, important consideration. At the same time, they realise that some sections of the population will practically escape altogether; and they fear that such a contingency is inevitable unless an effective income-tax is in force throughout the Colony.

The question of what would constitute a suitable contribution to be made by this Colony to the Imperial Government for the purpose of assisting in carrying on the present war was considered and the opinion of the committee was unanimous that the contribution should be a sum of not less than \$200,000 annually. Of this amount the committee are aware that \$200,000 has already been voted by the Legislative Council. To provide the further sum of \$200,000, the committee recommended the imposition of the alternative taxation referred to as soon as the Government is in a position to introduce it.

The committee are unanimously of opinion that the question of the introduction of an income-tax should be investigated during the coming year. They are not, as is shown by the further resolution, a copy of which is appended to this report, opposed to it in principle, but they are not prepared to advocate it as a means of raising the necessary funds for the war.

Finally, the committee wish to record that their resolutions relate only to taxation to be raised for the purposes of the present war.

(Signed) F. S. James, R. J. Addie, A. Agnew, O. Alagoff, J. S. Elias, G. U. Farrant, A. Hoog-Begg, Hoh San Hin, Lim Peng Siang, H. R. Llewellyn, Moons Kader Sultan, M. Purnahandas, Seah Liang Seah, Beet Teong Wah, E. Teesohn, N. Veerasamp, A. D. Duncan, F. Duxbury, A. F. Goodrich, Quah Beng Koo, F. Inkson, Tan Chong Lock.

Tax on exported rubber.—An export tax of five per cent. on all rubber produced in and exported from the Colony, with a rebate to all firms registered in the United Kingdom. Carried unanimously.

Tax on increased and new capital.—A tax of \$2.50 on every \$1,000 of increased capital and on new capital. Carried unanimously.

Increased stamp duties.—An all-round increase in stamp duties. Carried unanimously.

Increased duty on petrol.—The import duty on petrol to be increased by five cents per gallon. Carried unanimously.

Increased stamp duty on cheques and dividend warrants.—The stamp duty on cheques and dividend warrants to be increased from four cents to ten cents. Carried unanimously.

Tax on theatre tickets and wayangs.—A tax on theatre tickets, 20 cents on tickets of \$1 value and over, five cents on tickets of a value of less than \$1. Carried unanimously.

Increased tobacco duties.—The duties on tobacco to be increased. Carried unanimously.

Increased liquor duties.—The liquor duties to be raised by 25 per cent. Carried unanimously.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS AND THE WAR.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

The financial result of the Straits Settlements "Our Day" was a total contribution, less expenses, of \$427,496.57. Singapore's contribution (including \$940.25 from Christmas Island), was \$272,123.37; Penang, \$68,118.28; Malacca, \$41,175.90; Johore, \$31,019.45; and Labuan, \$6,679. The interest was \$1,020.72, and the grand total \$428,039.73. The expenses amounted to \$543.16. The accounts were closed on December 30th. A sum of £20,000 has been remitted to London, and there remains a balance in hand of \$1,775.95.

At a meeting which was held for the purpose of hearing the financial statement, H.E. the Governor said that he had not been a great believer in voluntary subscriptions, and his view had been strengthened by the fact that, although there had been no war taxation in the Colony as yet, in the first two years and two months of the war—that was up to the end of September last—a sum, he might say a sum only, of £180,000 was subscribed throughout British Malaya. He did not consider that a large subscription, but the success of "Our Day" had greatly done away with that non-belief of his.

Regarding the Straits War Loan, His Excellency said he was disappointed and sorry to state that the applications amounted, for the first month, only to a little more than 4 million dollars. That was a small sum for Singapore to subscribe, and he especially asked all communities, and chiefly the rich Chinese who had not yet come forward properly—and he desired that they might come forward as soon as possible—to subscribe to the loan.

FOOD BEFORE LIQUOR.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S HINT ON STATE CONTROL.

Mr. Lloyd George has made a significant statement on the liquor traffic in relation to the war-time food problem. Writing to Mr. Ellis Davies, M.P., on the question of State purchase and control of the liquor trade, he says:

Since the beginning of the stupendous struggle on which we are all engaged the importance of this question has become greater and greater. Tentative efforts have already been made in this direction by the Board of Control. These, I believe, have already produced excellent results in localities where they have been carried out.

Now that the food problem is becoming everyday more and more urgent the liquor problem has assumed a new aspect, and the nation must be prepared to see agricultural products put to the most urgent uses.

The German Chancellor's speech has made it quite clear that the German people are prepared to suffer any sacrifice to obtain the false ideal which, apparently, they still cherish. I have every confidence that our fellow-countrymen will be ready to make even greater sacrifices than these to secure the triumph of those great principles of liberty and justice which have always been the precious heritage of our people.

Increased postage rates.—The rates for postage stamps to be increased. Carried unanimously.

Tax on landlords and tenants.—A tax of five per cent. on assessment to be imposed on landlords and five per cent. on tenants. Carried by 14 votes to 5.

Tax on matches.—Matches to be taxed half a cent per box, a standard size of box to be adopted. Carried unanimously.

Tax on motor-cars and motor cycles.—A tax of \$200 on all cars imported, including lorries, and a tax of \$50 on all motor cycles imported. Carried unanimously.

Tax on aerated waters.—A tax on aerated waters, one cent, per large bottle and half a cent per small bottle. Carried unanimously.

Tax on profits of locally-registered companies not otherwise taxed.—A ten per cent. tax on the profits of all companies locally registered, companies already paying taxes for war purposes to be exempt (thus excluding rubber companies). Carried unanimously.

Resolution carried unanimously:—

"That this committee, having considered the question of the introduction of an income tax into the Colony of the Straits Settlements for the purpose of raising money as an annual contribution to the Imperial Government for the purpose of carrying on the present war, while in favour of the principle of such taxation as the most equitable system of taxation in European countries in its incidence on all classes, are of opinion that, in view of the want of machinery for the collection of such a tax and the difficulties attendant on its collection amongst an Asiatic population such as exists in the Colony, if possible some alternative taxation should be devised by the machinery at present in existence. They realise, as already expressed in the resolution carried by this committee, that the contribution to be made to the Home Government should be made with as little delay as possible. In advocating the alternative forms of taxation, as they have, the committee foresee that experience can only show whether the incidence of such taxation is fair or otherwise, and they are of opinion that as the taxation is to be annual, the question of an income-tax to replace such alternative taxation for the purpose of assisting in carrying on the war may well be further inquired into during the first year of the levying of the taxation now recommended by them."

NOW IN PREPARATION. CUTLER PALMER & CO'S.

THE DIRECTORY
AND CHRONICLE
1917.FOR CHINA, JAPAN, COREA,
INDO-CHINA, SIAM, STRAITS
SETTLEMENTS, MALAY STATES,
NETHERLANDS INDIA, PHILIP-
PINES, BORNEO, Etc.

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ISSUE.

The Compiler invites the European residents in the Far East who appreciate the advantage of having at their disposal a thoroughly complete and trustworthy work of reference to cooperate with them by returning of once the forms sent out for revision, and by furnishing, also, the names of any European firms which have recently been established in their midst or any that have ceased to exist.

Those advertisers, also, who have not yet sent in their revised announcements for the 1917 issue of the volume are asked to do so without further delay.

In this way the usefulness of the "Directory and Chronicle" will be increased and its early issue facilitated.

The Directories and Descriptions are of:-

China.

Peking.	Soochow.	Canton.
Shanghai.	Chinkiang.	Whampoa.
Tientsin.	Nanking.	Kowloon.
Chungking.	Wuhu.	Leppa.
Takung.	Kowloon.	Samshui.
Amoy.	Yokohama.	Kongmoon.
Manchuria.	Yokohama.	Nanning.
Trade Office.	Shanghai.	Wuchow.
Newchwang.	Ichang.	Kwangshun.
Daikoku.	Chungking.	Pakhoi.
Port Arthur.	Hangchow.	Hankow.
Chifu.	Ningpo.	Lungchow.
Wienai.	Wanchow.	Minghsia.
Shanghai.	Santo.	Hokow.
Mundon.	Foochow.	Siam.
Shanghai.	Amoy.	Tongchow.
Harbin.	Kirin.	Changchun.
Swatow.	Lungchow.	Hunchun.
Lungchingchun.		

JAPAN AND FORMOSA.

Tokyo.	Osaka.	Kobe.
Yokohama.	Manila.	Tokyo.
Myoko.	Nagasaki.	Tokyo.
Shimonoseki.	Tsushima.	Asping.

EASTERN ISLANDS.

Vladivostok. Nikolajevsk.

Onomichi.

Osaka. Wusan. Mokpo.

Onomichi. Fusan. Ulsan.

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GENERAL REVIEW OF THE
YEAR.

[SPECIAL TO THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

December 31st, 1916, brings to a close another great year in the world's history. Unshaken in with hopes and prayers for a return of the world's peace, it dies handing on to the New Year the bloody legacy of 1916. With it goes all our hopes of January last. Yet, although the year has not given us peace, it has contributed much towards that victory which must very soon be ours. Great things have been done in our day whereof we rejoice. The allied military forces have gained fresh laurels in all save one of the fields of operation, whilst our navies have guaranteed to us at home the necessities of life.

NAVAL.

On the 1st of January, 1916, the British Admiralty announced the loss of H.M.S. *Natal*, owing to an explosion whilst in harbour, news which was followed a few days later by the announcement that H.M.S. *King Edward* had struck a mine and sunk.

During January the text was published of the German complaint to the U.S.A. about the conduct of the officers and men of H.M.S. Auxiliary Cruiser *Baralong*. It was alleged by the Hun sea-pirates that after the *Baralong* had sunk a 17-foot boat, the officers and men shot some of its crew instead of taking them prisoners. Sir Edward Grey replied offering to submit the case to an impartial tribunal if the German Government would submit to the same tribunal:—(1) The sinking of the *Arabic* and non-combatant passenger. (2) The murder of British submarine seamen stranded on the Danish coast. (3) The cold-blooded attack on the steamer *Lucy*, and her crew. Such a course would have been very detrimental to the seapirates, who only wished to exploit the so-called "Baralong" out-ploy to enable them to win the sympathy of neutrals.

The career of

came to an untimely end in February, through striking a mine off the East coast. Although only a light cruiser, her loss filled the nation with great regret, for no other ship in the Royal Navy had been in action more often in this war or had sustained a harder hammering. In the Battle of Dogger Bank it was her torpedoes which gave the *Blucher* her coup de grace.

The great naval event of the year, in fact of the whole war, was the naval action which was fought off the coast of Jutland on May 31st. During the afternoon of that date a portion of the Grand Fleet came into touch with the German High Seas Fleet, and immediately engaged it in action. The losses on both sides were very severe, but immediately the main body of the British Fleet came into action the German Navy, following its usual practice, turned tail and sought refuge in its own protected waters. The British losses consisted of three battle cruisers, three armoured cruisers and eight destroyers, fourteen ships in all. Whilst the enemy's losses, which are really difficult to determine correctly, were at least two battleships, two battle cruisers, four light cruisers, nine destroyers, and one submarine, making a total of eighteen. The *Queen Mary*, *Indefatigable*, and *Invincible* were the three battle cruisers lost on this occasion. Only the immediate retirement of the enemy robbed the British Navy of turning their victory into a more decisive advantage. A few days after the news of this splendid victory was made known the country was thrown into gloom by the tragic sinking of

H.M.S. "HAMPSHIRE,"

with Lord Kitchener and his staff on board, off the Orkney Islands.

Lord Kitchener was on his way to Russia to discuss military and financial questions with the Russian Government, and had only been on board a few hours when the *Hampshire* struck a mine and sank in heavy sea, only twelve men being saved.

On July 6th, the premature Huns made an hysterical outburst when their submarine liner *Deutschland* arrived at Baltimore from Bremen with mails and cargo, claiming that it would now be possible for them to make futile the British blockade.

On July 23rd, a British flotilla engaged six German destroyers and drove them into Zebrugga.

A few days later, on the 29th of July, the world was horrified by another instance of German treachery. Captain Charles Fryatt, of the Great Eastern steamer *Brussels*, was "tried" by court-martial for an alleged attempt to ram submarine *U33*. In spite of the outcry which followed the murder of Nurse Cavell the Germans did not hesitate to vent their hatred on another victim, and Captain Fryatt was shot in cold blood.

Another naval fight took place on August 19th, which ended similarly to the Jutland battle by the retirement of the German Fleet immediately the British ships came up in equal numbers. In this engagement the British light cruisers *Nottingham* and *Walsmouth* were torpedoed and sunk, whilst we on our part sank two German submarines, and torpedoed the German Dreadnought *Westfalen*, which, despite the damage inflicted, managed to return safely to port.

Early in November a German destroyer flotilla from Zebrugga made a raid on the English Channel and sank an empty transport by a torpedo. Another attempt was made during the night of November 3rd to approach the north end of the Dover Straits, but they only succeeded in damaging drifters.

The British hospital ship *Britannic* was mined in the Aegean Sea on November 21st, whilst only two days later the *Braemar* Castle fell a victim to the same fate in the same sea.

WAR ON LAND.

Whilst the land campaigns of 1916 were tragic the military operations of 1917 were of the nature of a retrieval. The end of 1916 found the enemy in occupation of Poland, Kurland, and West Lithuania, and the main portions of Galicia and Bukovina recaptured by them. Serbia and Montenegro had been overrun, Gallipoli had been evacuated after

months of blundering, and General Townshend and his gallant army were being sacrificed by the failure to relieve Kut.

The year 1916 opened with a brilliant swift advance by the Russians under the Grand Duke Nicholas in the Caucasus, where the Turks had a large and efficient army. Sweeping down on the strongly fortified town of Erzerum the armies of the Grand Duke finally took it by assault on February 16th, capturing over 300 guns and 13,000 prisoners. Continuing their victorious march they captured Trebizond on April 18th, and Erzurum, the capital of Western Armenia on July 25th.

On the Western Front the Germans who had quietly withdrawn army divisions from the Russian and Balkan Fronts to France, commenced a series of faint attacks all along the line as a preliminary to the historic battle of Verdun. With over a million men concentrated at this part of the front the enemy opened their famous attack on February 19th, with a series of swift violent strokes, having thereby to paralyse the French Army defending Verdun, to capture it by surprise. In this they failed, but for six months they continued their attacks without intermission. On February 26th

PORT DUAUMONT

fell amidst loud outbursts of premature joy from the Kaiser and the German Press, who believed that the fall of Verdun was now a question of a few hours. On the 26th the enemy reached Flury, and still Verdun continued to hold out, but with the opening of the battle of the Somme, July 1st, the Germans were forced to cease all attacks and remain on the defensive. From this time forward nothing of importance happened around Verdun, until October 24th, when the French, taking advantage of the German withdrawal of men for their new campaign against Roumania delivered a sudden and successful attack, piercing the enemy's line on a front of five miles to a depth of two miles. The villages and Fort of Douaumont, and the farm of Thiaumont were captured, and 4,000 Germans taken prisoners, thus winning back ground in a few hours which had taken the Germans many weeks of severe fighting and heavy losses to capture and consolidate.

The object failure of all German attempts to take Verdun was the turning point of the whole war. For not only had the French held their ground well against the incessant attack, but on July 1st, much to the German's surprise, they were able to open vigorously the great

BATTLE OF THE SOMME.

On June 23rd Sir Douglas Haig reported that "our artillery had been more violent than usual."

This violent bombardment of the German lines which lasted some days was really the actual commencement of the great Anglo-French offensive.

Men and munitions had been concentrated around Albert, and on the morning of the 1st of July the attack was launched from Compiègne to Peronne. The French went forward rapidly, owing to the delusion of the Germans that the Frenchmen were worn out by the vigour of the Verdun fighting, the enemy's resistance south of the Somme being very feeble.

At Compiègne and around Beaumont Hamel the British were held, but they made good progress on the other parts of the line, and laid the foundations of a successful offensive, which still continues. The appearance of the "tanks" had a demoralising effect on the enemy, and greatly assisted the Allies to capture the great fortress of Compiègne and Thionville on September 26th.

Prior to the Anglo-French offensive on the Somme,

THE RUSSIANS.

who had made a brilliant recovery, delivered, on June 4th, assaults on the Austro-German lines. The enemy fell back west of Kovil, and the armies of General Brusilov recaptured Lutsk on June 6th. Further south in the Bukovina they made a triumphant entry into Czernowitz.

During the first three weeks of the offensive no less than 180,000 prisoners and guns fell into the hands of the Russians. The Austrians collapsed hopelessly in Galicia, and sought reinforcements from Germany.

Despite this the Russians continued to advance, and before the end of July they had taken over 300,000 prisoners. On August 10th, they captured Stanislaw, and made progress in the Carpathians. This wonderful recovery of the Russians led the sympathetic

ROMANIANS.

to take action, and on August 27th, they threw in their lot with the Allies by declaring war on Austria. Her troops immediately invaded Transylvania. The Germans increased at the Roumanian action made preparations for a serious campaign. The German Press boasted that they would invade Roumania with fire and sword for the benefit of other small nations, which might attempt to join issue against the Dual Alliance.

A large German force under Marshal von Mackensen moved by the Bulgarians began to invade Dobruja. They went forward until they had firmly established themselves on the Targovista-Constanza line. Meanwhile the German armies under General Falkenhayn commenced to drive the Roumanians out of Transylvania through the passes into Roumania. Then, von Mackensen having made a successful crossing of the Danube, an advance was made on Bucharest from three sides.

The Russians, co-operating with the Roumanians, delivered assaults on their Transylvanian fronts, thus easing the pressure.

All the great successes of the Allies in 1916 were due to a great extent to their acting in close concert. Whilst the Russians were striking in the East, and the Anglo-French on the Somme, the

ITALIANS.

under Count Cadorna, defeated the Austrian offensive of June 3rd, inflicting 100,000 casualties on the enemy, and in a few days began a vigorous counter-offensive which culminated on August 9th, by the taking of Gorizia, a tremendous booty, which included over 10,000 prisoners. On November 1st the

Italian offensive was resumed on the Carso, which in spite of bad weather resulted in gaining positions of tactical advantage and capturing another 10,000 prisoners. One of the most pleasing aspects of the year was the brilliant recovery of the gallant

SERBIANS.

and their advance into Macedonia. In co-operation with the Franco-Russian forces they assisted in the capture of Florina on September 18th. Continuing their successful march forward the Serbians delivered some heavy assaults on the enemy on the Tchora, which resulted in the Allied Forces occupying Monastir on November 18th, much to the disappointment and humiliation of the Bulgarians.

AT HOME.

The year that has passed was marked by an increased determination on the part of the people at home to "finish the war," which on the lips of everybody really meant "destroy Prussia and her abominations at all costs." On January 4th, Lord Derby reported that 681,160 single men engaged in munition work or a "stated trade" such as agriculture, etc., had failed to attest. Next day the first Compulsory Service Bill for single men was introduced in the House of Commons, with very little opposition.

The outcry of the attested married men for just treatment forced the hand of the Government to apply general conscription, and on May 3rd, a new Military Service Bill, enforcing military service on single and married men up to the age of 41, was introduced and speedily passed through both Houses.

Probably the most important event at home was

THE SINN FEIN INSURRECTION.

In Ireland, Sinn Fein, which is a Gaelic phrase meaning "ourselves alone," had the name for the movement which had for its main object "the establishment of the independence of Ireland." In September, 1916, as a result of Mr. John Redmond's efforts to raise recruits in Ireland, the Sinn Feiners broke away from the Irish Nationalist Volunteers and formed the Irish Volunteers, which soon numbered 13,000 strong. They became very violent in their agitation for an Irish Republic, and joined hands with the Citizen Army.

After months of drilling and the procuring of the necessities of war, this united force, the largest outside Ulster, were now ready, according to their own opinions, to deliver a deadly blow at Great Britain and her Allies. On Good Friday an attempt was made to land arms and ammunition from a German auxiliary vessel on the west coast of Ireland. Roger Casement, the traitor knight, was captured on the coast of Kerry, having crossed from Germany in a submarine.

Easter Monday morning the rebellion broke out in Dublin; the Sinn Feiners seizing several public buildings and houses in Sackville Street, made an attempt to take Dublin Castle which failed. With the arrival of the British troops from the Curragh Camp, the rebels contented themselves with barricading themselves in.

For a whole week the capital of Ireland was the scene of desperate fighting. Regiments of troops drew a cordon around the city, and the rebel strongholds were bombarded by field guns, and a gunboat from the river. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting in streets and houses took place, which only culminated in the unconditional surrender of P. H. Pearse, James Connolly and the other leading spirits of the insurrection. Wholesale courts-martial took place in Dublin, and the leaders of the rebellion were sentenced to death or to terms of imprisonment. The full total of human life sacrificed in the mad venture will never be known, but hundreds of harmless citizens, soldiers and rebels lost their lives in this brutal and bloody affair. Roger Casement, after a trial by judge and jury, paid the penalty of his offence some weeks later. Thus came to an end the short-lived Irish Republic.

A review of the year would not be complete unless some mention was made of the great strides which have been made at home to cope with

THE ZEPPELIN MENACE.

Up to December 1st, no less than seven airships had been brought down, whilst raiding the British Isles. On April 1st, *L15* was shot down in a raid on the East of England, and sank off the Thames estuary. On September 3rd, thirteen Zeppelins raided over the Eastern and South-Eastern Counties. Lieutenant W. L. Robinson then earned his V.C. by the great performance of bringing down the first enemy airship within the United Kingdom. At a great height he bombed the Zeppelin *L21*, which fell down in flames in a field near Cuffley.

September 24th saw two more Zeppelins, the *L32* and *L33*, brought down in Essex during a raid over the London counties. A week later ten more Zeppelins made a raid over the East of England, when another vessel was brought down at Potter's Bar. On November 28th, two of the Zeppelins which passed over the North-East coast were brought down in flames. One was brought down by an airman of the Royal Flying Corps off the coast of Durham, whilst the other, by airman and guns near the Norfolk coast.

From January 1st to the time of writing thirty-two German air visits have been paid to the British Isles. Two hundred and seventy persons have been killed, and six hundred and sixty-one injured. The homes and properties of hundreds of non-combatants have been damaged and destroyed, whilst the military value of the raids to the enemy has been of no value whatever. On the other side of the account the enemy have lost eleven ships as a result of their suicidal policy. This year their raids proved conclusively that the Zeppelin as a weapon of war is worth neither the money nor the time paid for it. At the present rate of destruction the German authorities are bound eventually to admit the conclusion. Although at war Parliament found time to pass an Act which had been agitated for in peace time without success. The pet scheme of the late Mr. William Willett, of advancing the clock by one hour in summer, passed rapidly through the House of Commons. It had been defeated in other years on the grounds of serious inconveniences likely

to arise, yet hardly a complaint could be heard anywhere when the new time took effect. On the contrary, very few more popular Acts have ever been passed than that of the Daylight Saving Bill.

ARM ALL SHIPS.

THE REMEDY AGAINST
SUBMARINES.

HEAVY GUNS NEEDED.

[BY "THE TIMES" NAVAL CORRESPONDENT.]

The arming of all merchantmen which cannot be conveyed has been urged upon the Admiralty and the Board of Trade in these columns from almost the beginning of the war.

To some extent guns for self-defence were furnished to ships last year, but it was to a very small extent. Principally, the ships so provided were those requisitioned for Government work. The official explanation why our ships were not armed was the scarcity of guns and ammunition, other equipments being more pressing. The guns provided in almost every case were of small calibre and range, while the armament was placed at the stern. The value of protection of this kind, even under these handicaps, against the enemy submarines in the earlier campaign was amply proved over and over again. The experience of many captains in the mercantile marine was that the enemy submarines did not continue to attack steamers provided with guns. They were afraid of them. It might have been expected, therefore, that this measure having proved its value, every merchant ship would have been armed. This, however, has not been done, and probably very few of the merchant ships bringing foodstuffs to England are armed at the present time.

Now that we are face to face with another and more dangerous submarine campaign in which the enemy boats are larger, carry heavier guns, and are capable of operating at a long distance from port, the position has become more urgent and important. The newer submarines no longer lie in wait under headlands and in shallow waters, but attack the ships in the open sea. Scores of cases have demonstrated the danger to our coasting trade. Moreover, a small gun-mounted steamer is, it has been demonstrated, no longer a sufficient protection. The guns carried by the newer enemy submarines outrange about 6,000 yards, whereas the guns carried by the submarine have a range of from 1,000 to 12,000 yards. The "U" boat gun, therefore, keeps at a safe distance and shells the merchant ship till she sinks her. The need is for heavier guns, or at least guns of longer range, mounted both in the bow and stern. It is unfair and unlike our British practice to oblige our gallant merchant seamen to run away from the enemy before they can bring their protected armament to bear. Furthermore, it is exceedingly likely that in order to perform this operation the merchant ship will have to present her vulnerable broadside to the enemy as a target for shell or torpedo. There may be diplomatic difficulties to surmount before British merchant ships can be armed as they should be, but these cannot weigh in the balance when the gravity of this matter and the interests of the Empire are considered.

How grave the matter is can be shown from official statements. Seven months ago on May 3rd, 1916, Lord Curzon, replying to Lord Bessborough in the House of Lords, made the statement that the number of merchant ships we had lost at that date was almost exactly balanced by the new ships which had been added to the mercantile marine during the progress of the war. On the 15th of November, Dr. Macnamara, in the House of Commons, said that the total British gross tonnage of merchant ships of 1,000 tons and over at the beginning of September 1916, was slightly over 2 per cent. This was due to all causes. The development of the menace to the merchant marine, and the increase in the peril from the action of the newer submarines, are shown by these figures. Whereas, as in May of this year, the net loss was insignificant, it is now 2½ per cent., and it cannot be supposed that the ordinary risks of the sea have increased to any large extent.

What is happening to our own mercantile marine is happening also in a greater or lesser degree to the merchant shipping of our Allies and neutrals. So far as the former are concerned, it has become a question whether the British Government should not strongly impress upon the French, Italian, and Russian Governments the necessity of arming their mercantile marine. With the neutrals there may be difficulties in the way of doing this. If, however, the activities of the enemy submarines in this direction are not effectively checked we may see the neutrals ceasing to trade with this country and using their shipping to pick up that large volume of foreign trade which can no longer be carried out by British vessels owing to the conditions which have demanded their use, for other services.

It was stated at Lloyd's last month that the arming of merchantmen, how, when, and where, as recommended by Lord Bessborough at the City meeting the previous week, has been definitely decided upon.

It is not known whether the Government will bear the cost of the arming of the boats, but the general impression at Lloyd's is that the cost will fall upon the shipowners, who are not likely to grumble at this expense in protecting their property.

One well-known London shipbroker said that what was wanted were small guns sufficiently powerful to sink a submarine at fairly long range, but not of a calibre which would endanger the safety of merchantmen when the guns were fired.

"THE BLOOD-BATH."

GERMAN VIEWS OF THE SOMME
BATTLES.

[FROM PHILIP GUICHÉ.]

Before the ending of the first phase of the Battle of the Somme the second phase begins, I imagine, with our great advance on September 15th, from the Pozieres-Longueval-Guillaumont line—the German troops had invented a terrible name to describe this great ordeal: it was "The Blood-Bath of the Somme." The name and the news could not be hidden from the people of Germany, who had already been chilled with horror by the losses at Verdun, nor from the soldiers of reserve regiments quartered in French and Belgian towns like Valenciennes, St. Quentin, Cambrai, Lille, Bruges, and as far back as Brussels, waiting to go to the front; nor from the civil populations of those towns held for two years by their enemy—these blonde young men who lived in their houses, married down their streets, and made love to their women. The news was brought down from the Somme front by Red Cross trains, arriving in endless succession, and packed with maimed and mangled men. German military policemen formed cordons round the railway stations, pushed back civilians who came to stare with sombre eyes at these blanketed bundles of living flesh, but when the ambulances rumbled through the streets towards the hospitals—long processions of them, with the soles of men's boots turned up over the stretchers on which they lay quiet and stiff—the tale was told though no word was spoken.

The tale of defeat, of great losses, of grave and increasing anxiety, was told clearly enough—as "I" have read—in captured letters—by the faces of German officers who went about in these towns behind the lines with gloomy looks, and whose tempers, never of the sweetest, became irritable and unbearable, so that the soldiers hated them for all this cursing and bullying. A certain battalion commander has a nervous breakdown because he has to meet his colonel in the morning. "He is dying with fear and anxiety," writes one of his comrades. Other men, not battalion commanders, are even more afraid of their superior officers, upon whom this bad news from the Somme has an evil effect. The bad news was spread by divisions taken out of the line and sent back to rest. The men reported that their battalions had been cut to pieces. Some of their regiments had lost three-quarters of their strength. They described the frightful effect of the British artillery—the smashed trenches, the shell-craters, the great horror.

BATAVIAN AND PRUSSIAN.

It is not good for the moral of men who are first going up there to take their turn. The man who was afraid of his colonel sits all day long writing home with the picture of his wife and children before his eyes. He is afraid of other things. Bavarian soldiers quarrelled with Prussians, accused them (justly) of shirking the Somme battlefields, and leaving the Bavarians to go to the blood-bath.

All the Bavarian troops are being sent to the Somme (this much is certain, you can see no Prussians there), and this in spite of the losses the 1st Bavarian Corps suffered recently at Verdun. And how we did suffer! It appears that we are in for another turn, at least the 5th Bavarian Division. Everybody was then talking about it for a long time. To the devil with it! Every Bavarian regiment is being sent into it, and it's a swindle.

It was in a cheerful mood that men went away to the Somme battlefields. These battalions of grey-clad men entered without any of the old enthusiasm with which they had gone to earlier battles. Their gloom was noticed by the officers. "Sing, you sheep's head, sing!" they shouted. They were compelled to sing, by order. A man of the 16th Reserve Division wrote:

"We had to go out again; we were to learn to sing. The greater part did not join in, and the song went feebly. Then we had to march round in a circle and sing, and that went no better. After that we had an hour off, and on the way back to billets we were to sing 'Deutschland über Alles,' but this broke down completely. One never hears songs of the Fatherland any more."

FOREBODINGS OF DEATH.

They were silent, grave-eyed men who marched through the streets of French and Belgian towns to be entrained for the Somme front, for they had forebodings of the fate before them. Yet none of their forebodings were equal in intensity of fear to the frightful reality into which they were flung. The journey to the Somme front on the German side was a way of terror, ugliness, and death. Not all the imagination of morbid minds searching obscurely for foulness and blood in the great deep pits of human agony could surpass these scenes along the way to the German lines round Courcellette and Fiers, Gueudecourt, Morval, and Les Boeufs. Many times, long before a German battalion had arrived near the trenches, it was but a collection of nerve-broken men bemoaning losses already suffered far behind the lines and filled with hideous apprehension. For British long-range guns were hurling high-explosives into distant villages, barraging cross-roads, reaching out to railheads and ammunition dumps, while British airmen were on bombing flights over railway stations and rest-bells, and high roads down which the German troops came marching at Cambrai, Bapaume, in the valley between Fiers and Valenciennes, at Ligny-Thillois, Busigny, and many other places on the lines of route.

German soldiers arriving at Cambrai by train found themselves under the fire of a single aeroplane which flew very low and dropped bombs. They exploded with heavy crashes, and one bomb hit

the first carriage behind the engine, killing and wounding several men. A second bomb hit the station buildings, and there was a great clatter of broken glass, the rending of wood and the fall of bricks. All lights went out, and the German soldiers groped about in the darkness amidst the splinters of glass and the fallen bricks, searching for the wounded by the sound of their groans. It was but one scene along the way to that blood-bath, through which they had to wade to the trenches of the Somme.

DEATH FROM THE SKIES.

Flights of British aeroplanes circled over the villages on the way. At Grevillers, in August, eleven 112-lb bombs fell in the market square so that the centre of the village collapsed in a state of ruin, burying soldiers belated there. Every day the British airmen paid these visits, meeting the Germans far up the roads on their way to the Somme, and swooping over them like a flying Death. Even on the march in open country the German soldiers tramping silently along—no singing in spite of orders—were bombed and shot at by these British aviators, who flew down very low, pouring out streams of machine-gun bullets. The Germans lost their nerve at such times, and scattered into the ditches, falling over each other, struck and cursed by their "interdiction," and leaving their dead and wounded in the roadway. As the roads went nearer to the battlefields they were choked with the traffic of war, with artillery and transport wagons and horse ambulances, and always thousands of grey men marching up to the lines, or back from them, exhausted and broken after many days in the fire of hell up there.

Officers sat on their horses by the roadside directing all the traffic with the usual swearing and cursing, and rode alongside the transport wagons and the trucks, urging them forward at a quicker pace, because of stern orders received from headquarters demanding a quicker movement. The reserves, it seemed, were desperately wanted up in the lines. The English were attacking again. God alone knew what was happening. Regiments had lost their way. Wounded men, pouring back, Officers had gone mad. Into the midst of all this turmoil shells fell—from long-range guns. Transport wagons were blown to bits. The bodies and fragments of artillery horses lay all over the roads. Men lay dead or bleeding under the debris of gun-wheels and broken bricks. Above all the noise of this confusion and death in the night the hard, stern voices of German officers rang out, and German discipline prevailed and men marched on to greater perils.

IN THE SHELL ZONE.

They were in the shell zone now, and sometimes a regiment on the march was tracked all along the way by British guns fired directly from aeroplanes and captive balloons. It was the fate of a captured officer "I" met, who had detrained at Bapaume for the trenches at Contalmaison. At Bapaume his battalion was hit by fragments of 12-in. shells. Nearer to the line they came under the fire of 8-in. and 6-in. shells. Four-point-sevens found them somewhere by Bazentin. At Contalmaison they marched into a barrage, and here the officer was taken prisoner. Of his battalion there were few men left. It was so with the 3rd Jäger Battalion, ordered up hurriedly to make a counter-attack near Fiers. They suffered so heavily on the way to the trenches that no attack could be made. The stretcher-bearers had all the work to do.

The way up to the trenches became more tragic as every kilometre was passed, until the stench of corruption was wafted on the wind so that men were sickened and tried not to breathe, and marched hurriedly to get on the lee side of its foulness. They walked now through places which had once been villages, but were sinister ruins where death lay in wait for German soldiers. One of them wrote:

"It seems queer to me that whole villages close to the front look as flattened as a child's toy run over by a steam roller. Not one stone remains on another. The streets are one line of shell-holes. Add to that the thunder of the guns, and you will see with what feelings we come into the line—into trenches where for months shells of all calibre have rained. Fiers is a scrapheap."

They had reached the Bath of Blood at last, above that river of the Somme which as long as the history of this war lasts will be coloured in the imagination of men by the crimson flow of life spilt on these battlefields, though it runs silver-bright between the high rushes on its banks. In the fire-trenches and support trenches and communication trenches up by Thiépval, Martinpuich, and Courcellette, by Fiers and Gueudecourt and Morval, even farther back by Grandcourt and Le Sars, British airmen came in great numbers, plunging up the earth, burying living men, unburying dead men, searching for German flesh and blood, many days before the British infantry leapt from their own trenches and began the second phase, or, if you like to reckon differently, the third phase, of their advance, on September 15th.

RELIERS ONLY AT NIGHT.

Again and again men lost their way up to the lines. The relief could only be made at night, lest they should be discovered by British airmen and British guns, and even if these German soldiers had trench-maps the guidance was but little good when many trenches had been smashed in, and only shell-craters could be found. They stumbled through the darkness and into these pits, sometimes waist-high in water. The British flares shot up with a vivid white light, and the men crouched low and still between the rockets, and then crawled on again. Shells burst over them, and there was the chatter of English machine-guns. A letter written by one of these Germans says:

"In the front line of Fiers the men were only occupying shell-holes. Behind there was the intense smell of putrefaction, which filled the trench—almost unbearably. The corpses lie either quite insignificantly covered with earth on the edge of the trench or quite close under the bottom of the trench, so that the earth

BRITISH V. GERMAN.

A BOER COMPARISON.

Writing on the "Passing of the Drill Sergeant," Sir R. Baden-Powell, of Mafeking fame, says: "In the Boer War just after Peace was signed I met an old Boer friend who had been fighting against us, with a remark that he could not remain in the country any longer now that it was under the British rule. His reason was that he hated us because we were so particularly stupid—'atom' as he called it, which means 'super stupid.' He said that the British soldier needs to have everything done for him. He can do nothing himself. He has to have somebody to show him the way, someone to bring his food, someone to cook it for him. He has to have tents or huts to live in. He is told where to go and what to do, even what sight to take for his rifle and where he has to aim. In fact, the only thing he does for himself is to pull the trigger—and very often he may not do that without the word of command. As a Boer, accustomed to look after himself in the open, he could not have 'truck' with such things—and he was off to German South-West Africa. And he went. But in a few months he was back again. He had been there, and had found that the Germans were even more 'atom' than the British. He said that at any rate, after six months or so, the British began to feel their feet, but the Germans never. Fritz fiddled about carrying out orders, and never using his own brains, until he ended up in the uniform way of getting them kicked out through his stupidity in dealing with the business-end of mules. The fellow who was drilled merely to carry out orders, was no use."

Let the stench through. In some places bodies lie quite uncovered in a trench recess, and no one seems to trouble about them. One sees horrible pictures—here an arm, here a foot, here a head sticking out of the earth. And these are all German soldiers—heroes! Not far from us at the entrance to a dug-out nine men were buried, of whom three were dead. All along the trench men kept on getting buried. What had been a perfect trench a few hours before was in parts completely blown in. The men are getting weaker. It is impossible to hold out any longer. Losses can no longer be reckoned accurately. Without a doubt many of our people are killed."

That is only one out of thousands of such gruesome pictures, true as the death they described, which have gone to German homes during the battles of the Somme. These German soldiers are grand letter-writers, and men sitting in wet ditches—"up to my waist in mud," as one of them described, scribbled pitiful things, which they hoped might reach their people at home, as a voice from the dead. For they had had little hope of escape from the "Blood-bath." "When you get this I shall be a corpse," wrote one of them, and one finds the same foreboding in many of these documents. Even the lucky ones, who could get some cover from the incessant bombardment by English guns, began to lose their nerves after a day or two. They were always in fear of British infantry, sweeping upon them suddenly behind the "Trommel-feuer," rushing their dug-outs with bombs and bayonets. Sentries became "jumpy," and signalled attacks when there were no attacks. The gas-alarm was sounded constantly by the clang of a bell in the trench, and men put on their heavy gas-masks and sat in them until they were nearly stifled.

Here is a little picture of life in a German dug-out near the British lines, written by a man now dead.

"The telephone bell rings. 'Are you there? Yes, here's Nau's battalion.' 'Good. That is all.' Then that ceases, and now the wire is in again, perhaps for the twenty-fifth or thirtieth time. The night is interrupted, and now they come; alarm messages, one after the other, each more terrifying than the other; of enormous losses through the bombs and shells of the enemy, of huge masses of troops advancing upon us, of all possible possibilities, such as a train broken down, and tortured by the terrors of the day can invent. Our nerves quiver. We clench our teeth. None of us can forget the horrors of the night."

Heavy rain fell, and the dug-outs became wet and filthy. Our sleeping-places were full of water. We had to try to bail out the trenches with cooking dishes. I lay down in the water with G—. We were to have worked on dug-outs, but not a soul could do any more. Only a few sections got coffee. Mine got nothing at all. I was frozen in every limb, poured the water out of my boots, and lay down again."

GENERAL STAFF ALARMED.

The German generals and their staffs could not be quite indifferent to all this welter of human suffering among their troops, in spite of the cold scientific spirit with which they regard the problem of war. The agony of the individual soldier would not trouble them. There is no war without agony. But the psychology of masses of men had to be considered, because it affects the efficiency of the machine. As I shall show, the German General Staff on the Western front were becoming seriously alarmed by the declining moral of their infantry under the increasing strain of the British attacks, and adopted stern measures to cure it. But they could not hope to cure the heaps of German dead who were lying on the battlefields, nor the maimed men who were being carried back to the dressing stations, nor to bring back the prisoners taken in droves by the French and British troops. Before the attack on the Fiers line, the capture of Thiépval, and the German débâcle at Bapaume, the enemy's command was already filled with a grave anxiety at the enormous losses of its fighting strength, was compelled to adopt new expedients for increasing the number of its divisions. It was forced to withdraw troops badly needed on other fronts, and as I shall point out, the successive shocks of the British offensive reached as far as Germany itself, so that the whole of its recruiting system had to be put to fill up the gaps torn out of the German ranks. (Daily Telegraph.)

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG.

[BY "G.H.Q."]

In the following article one who has known the Commander-in-Chief a great number of years and who has had unique opportunities of personal contact with his unrivalled military capacity and generalship sets forth his great faith in the man who, on the whole, has done the most valuable military work of this country to-day is Sir Douglas Haig, and at home it is high time that every man and woman should know the faith in the man who can win the Boche which inspires every British soldier in France: it is high time that the soldier's faith should be the soldier's home.

If any untoward thing should happen to weaken his present authority by reason of influences one need but hint at, I should regard it as the greatest possible national calamity.

I have known the Commander-in-Chief since the beginning of his great military career; in no modern instance has rapid promotion been more thoroughly earned and deserved. He holds the highest command in France to-day solely because he is the man of outstanding military ability, one who throughout his life has placed Army matters first and everything else second.

Though always a keen sportsman he has invariably made sport subservient to duty. From his earliest days in the Hussars he has studied and mastered work of military value published in any country.

It was in 1895 that he laid the cornerstone of that knowledge which ultimately will be the undoing of the Boche. He was then a captain in the 7th Hussars, and after a long term of service in India got six months' furlough. Anybody else would have made of that furlough a well-earned holiday. Not so Haig—he spent six months in Germany, living with German regiments and studying Continental systems of military science. In the old Army it was a fashion to talk of the Haig luck. In reality it was the kind of luck that commands the help of Providence only when a man has fully helped himself. That is the secret of the Haig fortune—a striking and commanding personality allied to a genius for concentration. He leaves nothing to chance.

I remember during the first terrible battle of Ypres how he packed off his generals to bed at 8.30 o'clock, like so many school-children. "There's a big work to be done, and you cannot be fit at four in the morning without proper rest overnight," he would say. And he saw that his grey-haired generals went to bed too. Month in and out, moreover, he himself practices early habits.

There is little pomp and circumstance about G.H.Q. to-day; the keynote is simplicity and frugality. General Haig sets the pace. He is a non-smoker and takes only the most moderate amount of stimulant at any other time. There is no thought around him of aught but the war, and all the Staff are imbued with the Commander-in-Chief's singleness of purpose.

Advanced G.H.Q. is a simple country dwelling-house tucked away unostentatiously a few miles behind the British lines, and within easy reach of a little French village. Domiciled here with Sir Douglas Haig are just three Staff officers; the remainder are billeted in the neighbouring village. It is a wonderful organisation, this war-hive of Haig's. For purposes of G.H.Q. the Army is divided into certain partitions. To each one an officer of the Staff is appointed, and it is his duty to have at his finger-tips just all there is to be known about his particular army. Thus Sir Douglas Haig has at his side an intimate knowledge of the whole British front.

Up to times in the morning, he repairs to his private study immediately after breakfast. Here he interviews his various heads of departments. Sometimes he remains hard at work there till lunch time; on other days, interviews over, he gets away early to one division or another. Here, again, one may note his innate dislike for military circumstance. There is little dashing about to day in high-powered motor-cars, and Sir Douglas never enters one himself unless it be to take him to a distant part of the front which only patrol will achieve in the time at disposal. Very probably horses will have been sent on to an appointed place, and arriving there, the chief will proceed on horseback. In returning he will probably ride in to within three or four miles of G.H.Q., then dismount, and finish the return on foot. Seldom a day passes but he visits one of his corps commanders. I think the Commander-in-Chief makes it a special point to know by name as many officers as any one human brain can carry. Often have I heard expressions of amazement from some one or other who in passing has been addressed by name by Sir Douglas Haig.

Never has the British Army of all ranks had such a sublime—I had almost said blind-faith and confidence in its Commander-in-Chief. It is the leaven of the First Army which has permeated the whole. For days and nights, which ran into weeks, during those awful days of the first battle of Ypres, when every batman and the last cook from the field kitchens had been flung into the trenches, his contact with all ranks was so close and intimate a nature that his presence among them then has left an indelible impression.

The full story of those awful days has yet to be told, but I think I am breaking no confidence in telling to-day of General Haig's fervent conviction. Every ounce of British resistance was being strained to breaking point, every man that military genius backed only by shell-furnished guns could devise had been requisitioned; no human power

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[35]



UNHAPPY THIN FOLKS.

One of the readers of a popular health journal wrote to the editor, asking why she was peevish, blue and discontented, and his answer will interest all thin people.

"My dear reader," he said, "when you write that you are thin and do not weigh what you should, you have given me the real cause of your unhappy feelings. If you only had a reserve of fat this would give a quieting and reassuring influence to the vital forces, and you would then be happy, contented and optimistic."

Then, too, you realize that the proper distribution of fat on the body and limbs makes all the difference between beauty and ugliness, and you envy your plump friends. As a liberal allowance of fat is one of nature's wise precautions to enable us to bear some of the trials of life, you should do all in your power to get fat. I know nothing so valuable to make people fat as a preparation of Sargol, prepared by The Sargol Co. of England.

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[37-4]

could do more. "God alone can save us," were the words often on his lips, and no one to-day acknowledges more humbly that supernatural aid was accorded than General Haig himself. "It was the help of God for a man who had helped himself."

Officers at his side say they will never forget those days along the Menin Road, shelled incessantly day and night, with General Haig. One officer states that, while he can recall fearless horseanship in the hunting-field and countless episodes during a long friendship of an iron self-control, it was on the Menin Road he learned untold things of his general's priceless nerve. As I well believe, it is the nerve of a super-man who, maybe, has some intuitive, sub-conscious knowledge of things well done, founded upon a supreme and abiding faith in a God above. Without doubt he is a God-fearing man.

Not far from advanced General Headquarters there is a little French church, and every Sunday morning is held there a simple service of the Church of Scotland. Sir Douglas Haig never misses that simple Sunday service.

He is a supremely just man. In regard to new commands and appointments no man was ever less moved by pressure or influence from without. He judges an officer solely upon the value of his military record, and in many cases, from his own personal experience.

Unlike the majority of mankind, he welcomes new things, fresh ideas; novelty does not cause him to shrink. His share, for instance, in the great use of the tanks is scarcely appreciated; the newness would have appalled most men. It is that quality of mind that makes him invaluable on the western front to-day.

In domestic life Sir Douglas Haig is a devoted father. The mutual affection that exists between him and his two children is idealistic. It is that human element in him that makes him so jealous of the lives of the soldiers he commands. I think the power of seeing through the uniform to the father who wears it is always with him.

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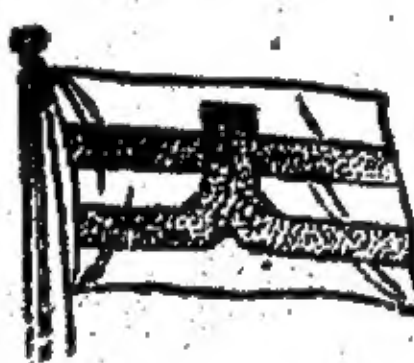
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